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HE SALT
OF
HE EARTH.
ORIGINAL STORY
RITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR THE
ekly Commercial.
shall commence the publication, in our
y of Saturday, January 2,
an Original Serial Story, entitled
E SALT OF THE EARTH,"
BY
s. Edith Browne Nelson,
's city, which will run through the en-
thirteen weeks. The scene of the
is partly in Pittsburgh and partly in
ark, and opens up with a great deal of
st.
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HE COMMERCIAL,"
PITTSBURGH, PA.
OM UNIONTOWN, PA.
stitute—Lectures by Professor
orey, H. O. Gibbons, &c.
idence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
OWN, PA., December 24, 1874.
e county Teachers' Institute
essions in the public school hall,
day, and will continue through the
J. V. Gibbons, the County Super-
dent, has held the office at different
for twelve years, but it is reasonable
ppose that his advanced age will for-
his continued discharge of its duties
h longer. He has, by his long contin-
and earnest efforts in the cause of pub-
instruction, endeared himself to both
hers and citizens, and they will re-
retire from the office with feelings of
t. There is a good attendance of
ers and citizens, and much interest is
ifested in the exercises.
of. Robert Curry, County State Super-
ndent, lectured Monday evening on
cial Education." Mr. Curry is an
and earnest institute worker, and has
a good reputation for himself here.
ldresses have also been made by Rev.
. Sloan, Wm. Gibbons, A. H. Cotton
others.
ev. H. O. Gibbons, formerly principal
urence Public School of Pittsburgh,
a very instructive and vigorous
re on the "Symmetry of Education."
Gibbons was at one time principal of
schools of this place, and his old
ds were glad to see and hear him
a. Many of his former pupils are now
ted down in life, and entertain
im handsomely at their homes.
J. Arms, of the Pittsburgh COMMER-
, delivered his popular lecture on
s," under the auspices of the Uniontown
Lyceum," Tuesday evening, to a
ded house.
ontown is a quiet, pleasant old town,
ated in the Western part of Westmo-
, or Allegheny Mountains, and is a
iful place. In the summer season it
opular summer resort.
Pittsburgh and Connellsville Rail-
has a branch road from Connellsville
place, which is in excellent condi-
and under good management.
MEM.

The interesting fire insurance case, that of Averill Chemical Paint Company vs. Fire Association of Philadelphia, was tried in New York last week. The facts are that on December 6, 1872, at four o'clock P. M., an agent of the paint company went to the agent of the insurance company and arranged for an insurance on the works, to take place *at once*. An hour afterward, that is at five P. M. the company's buildings were in flames. The losses amounted to twenty thousand dollars, and were about equally divided among thirteen companies. The defense set up was that the agent had expressly forbidden the insured to take any risks known to be hazardous, and had directly rejected this particular risk. The jury, however, decided in favor of the plaintiffs, giving the full amount claimed with interest added. It will be seen that the value of property destroyed was insured but a single hour, in which time it was impossible that the policies could have been written, but the insurance *arranged for* at o'clock was to begin *at once*, and, by verdict of the jury, it did so. This case is a suggestion to property owners the city, not letting their policies lapse through neglect or want of renewal.

ANXIOUS Inquirer in the New York *Sun* gives the following valuable hint to forthcoming that think:"

s the merchant when trade is dull
s will not sell his wares except at a
times profit? No; he advertises and
his goods down to cost, or even less,
y will sell, knowing this is better for
he being than to do nothing. On that
principle, would it not be better for
sses of persons who work for daily-
to offer their services for much less
hey have been receiving, to encour-
me one to employ them? I think if
ifferent trades in the large cities
d hold mass meetings and decide to
imited time they were willing to labor
-half or two-thirds of the pay they
ed in good times, and keep faith
capital, it would not be long before
ould have work and the workman
r and the merchant's wares would
a good profit. I would ask, is this
better and quicker way to secure
times? In the meantime they will
ive half a loaf, which I have always
d better than none.

OTTAWA correspondent writes to the *Globe*: "It is said an American has offered to organize a company to lop the Baidwin Iron Mine, and are ared to begin building workshops, nces, &c., at a cost not exceeding, for present, $75,000. They are willing to pack in the company themselves to xtent of $75,000, on condition that the ty of Ottawa and this city will each a bonus of $25,000 in aid of the enter- the balance of $50,000 stock to be up by the public. In addition to working fund of $50,000 will be re- d, making a total capital of $225,000.

e Brazil, Indiana, *Echo* says: "A ter- ible and fatal accident occurred Saturday orning in the Barnett mines, of William Shuler. Con Sullivan was engaged in ng through a rib into another room, heavy piece of slate fell upon his d, it is supposed, killed him in- Being alone in his room, the was not discovered until about two in the afternoon. He had only re a few days ago, from the Shen- alley, Pennsylvania, and leaves wife and six young children to ourn and lose.

(From the Inter-Ocean.)

COLORED SCHOOLS IN INDIANA.

On the ground that the laws of Indiana require that colored children shall be educated in separate schools, the blacks in the mixed schools in Brazil, that State, were, by order of the School Supervisors, expelled a few days since. It is said that the little children begged to remain, and cried piteously when they found the order was imperative. One teacher, Miss Jennie Worthington, could not amass sufficient cruelty to dismiss those in her department, and sought one of the officers, who tried to explain the matter, and then forbade their return.

Dey's Turned Us Chil'n Out.

BY JERE DE BROWN.

I'se brought home all my books to-day,
An' so hab Cæsar an' Gus.
Dey'll hab to go back to de chist, I 'spec,
For dey's no more use to us.
It isn't vocation, nudder, pap,
Dat ain't what dis is about:
We can't go look for de school now,
Dey's turned us chil'n out.

Whatever we'se done I hasn't heard.
We isn't no blacker, sho',
But what we was when we went fus',
A year ago, or mo'.
We always went dar 'spectable,
An' tried to act our best;—
But den we'se *black*, pap, dar's de rub;
And so we gets no rest.

Dar wa'n't no happier gal dan me,
In dat whole school, 'fore noon;
'Case I was larnin to read so fas'
An' 'gin in to write so soon.
Why, sah, Miss Emmy done tole me twice—
An' what *she* says she mean—
Dat I se de likeliest gal aroun',
Consid'n I'se jes' sixteen.

But when we'sang that rousin' song,
"Shout, all ye freemen, shout."
De teacher 'sebled an order, sah,
To turn dis chil'n out.
But she jes' 'fused to be so mean,
An' said we could stay;
So den de Boa'r deyse come in
An' tole us blacks to clar.

Dey found' dey'd been a doin' wrong
To edycate de blacks
Along wid *humen* chil'n, sah,
Aldo we pays a tax.
Dey said the law say *sep'rate* schools
Mus' be maintained for us;
But as dey hain't pervided dem,
Dey 'fuse to have us.

Dey didn't gib us time to pack,
But druv us out like sheep:
An' all the chil'n—black and white—
Commenced to wail and weep.
We hung around the school-room door,
An' begged an' cried to stay,
But dey jes' run out an' shook dar sticks
And made us run away.

I wonder if dat book up dar—
De best among de seben—
Could tell ef any 'stinction's made
'Twixt white chil'n an' cullud.
I know I'se heered Miss Jennie read
Dat God is no suspec'—
"Respecter of persons,"—dat's it, pap,
Or somfin to dat effect.

So, nap, dey's 'prived us ob de right
To learn to read and write.
An' when de Boa'r talks 'bout sep'ate schools
You'll see dis darkey white.
Derefore I'se jus' brought home my books,
An' so hab Cæsar an' Gus,
An' dey'll hab to lay in de chist, I 'spec',
For dey's no more use to us.

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

By EDITH BROWNE NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

We are told by the old English poet, Parnell, that

"No real happiness is found
In trailing purple on the ground."

At eighteen I own I scarcely appreciated the truth of the above lines for my youth was passing most comfortably, protected by the "purple and fine linen" of the present day. Reared daintily as a hot-house plant, my mission as a woman seemed to be the same—to bloom into beauty and please the eye.

If our eyes open daily to the sight of grand, green hills, the wish is easily inspired to ascend them and approach nearer the benignant heavens. Now, my vision was early trained to look down into the valley, and regard nothing but the flowers at my feet. "Nothing is more repulsive to the eyes of men than a clever woman. A beauty, my child, should never think. Thought brings grey hairs and wrinkles sooner than years upon us." So my aunt would carnestly exhort me, as she complacently, meanwhile, into the mirror that reflected a most carefully preserved complexion, and eyes whose sailing brightness shone undimmed by time or sorrow.

When I forgot my lesson and *did* think, I wondered a little why I had never seen my father, and heard so little mention of him, although I remembered my mother. That the one had died at my birth, and the other was chained to the oar of his business in the mighty Iron City that had given him birth, I, perhaps, thought too hard upon him. That Spanish mother of his bequeathed the liquid beauty of his long cut eyes, and a gleam of liquid fire in his moments of wrath. I was an only child, given me the impression he was a perfect misanthrope and miser, but that the liberality of my allowance and the magnificent presents he often forwarded from Pittsburgh, forbade the idea. But that father and daughter should never have met, that from childhood to womanhood I had grown up in the absence of relatives, and that he should never have cared once to emerge from his counting-house to look upon the face they told me so exactly resembled my beautiful mother's, was unusual and eccentric. "Some day, when your education is completed in New York, you will go home." That was the promise Phil. Scratchem's son had often been fulfilled yet. Sometimes I conjectured serious, strange and sad circumstances were connected with the eclipse of that bright mother's love, whose grave's wit had made a perfect *furore* in fashionable circles eighteen years ago. I once asked my aunt if there had ever been any likeness between myself and my mother, on account of her extravagance, which had certainly nearly ruined him, or from any other cause.

"Celestia Doolittle, your mother was worshiped to the day of her death," I was answered most emphatically; "if she did spend one fortune, your father is a man who can easily build up another. She was crying for the moon all her life, and he was trying to get it for her; that was all the trouble I can tell you about."

Such was the power exercised by my mother's love over her husband's heart, and yet he had never seen her child.

Many a girl in New York envied me so kind and indulgent a guardian. None of them doubted, of course, but that letters and visits were frequent between us. I grew up in a select and fashionable circle, "the salt of the earth," as Aunt Sigmatized them, to their own sweet will. I hastily descended. Aunt Cornelia had taken the carriage, and gone out for a day's shopping earlier than usual, so I presume no one was cognizant of the stranger's call, but that provoking Julie, who had shown him into the salon, where we never have a fire until evening. Shuddering at her barbarity, and the bleak air of the room, I advanced hastily. "Pray come into some warmer room, sir. The girl only delivered your card ten minutes ago, or you should not have waited so long."

To add to her further delinquencies, Mademoiselle had not even taken the trouble to open the blinds, and out of the obscurity I see a tall figure slowly rise. As he towers into view, being a very slim body and prone at all times to take the comic side of things, think he resembles the Genii rising from the bottle of smoke, I used to read about in the "Arabian Nights."

I make a gracious little bow, which he returns with such labored ceremony and reserve that I open my eyes merrily, sure this must be an Englishman. Yes, I am right. When that deep bass organ is put in motion, I am in no more doubt of his nationality. None of my countrymen ever that mien, half bashful, half dignified. Seldom out of England do you hear those full, round chest-tones.

"I am not likely to be injured by such a small hardship as a cold room, young lady, and my errand can be told in a very few words, but I own I should like to be able to see distinctly Miss Doolittle."

Upon this hint I quickly unclosed the blinds and our eyes met. Before me stood a tall gaunt-faced man of about forty, very shabbily dressed. No wonder Julie was shocked at the advent of such a thread bare coat, such a faded hat in my elegant aunt's elegant parlors. His sleeves were absolutely patched in various places, and so clumsily that I am sure he must have done it himself, and his hands were gloves less this bitter winter's day.

But the most singular point in the man's appearance was his hair, which was perfectly white, curling in short, silvery rings all over his well-shaped head. Broad, black eyebrows, beneath which the deep, melancholy eyes shone like funeral lamps in a vault, heightened the contrast. For my eyes disdainfully. An ill dressed, elderly Englishman is all I see in him; but he sees in me—my heavens, what does the man see?

With a sharp, thrilling cry, he covers up his face. He recoils from me as though I were a toad, a viper, or something hideous, as it is dreaded, and then the strong man fellow fainted right away in his chair. Did I scream, fall into hysterics, bring the whole household around? These things I had done on full as serious occasions. I was mortally afraid of touching a shiny toad or feeling a spider run over my hair, but I was never scared at suffering, only eager to relieve it. Poor Cousin Tom used to faint like this.

Tom had been a great hero in the eyes of the school-girl of fifteen. An ordinary, red-haired boy went out from our little home to take part in our great civil war, and returned to his friends, his young life sapped away, as the juice from a blooming bough, by sojourn in short, unwholesome prisons. In his last, fading days, Tom had such fainting spells as this, and Tom always relied on me, the most spoilt and frivolous member of the household, more than any one else in an extremity. I knew what remedies to procure, and how to apply them. With difficulty, however, I repressed a cry of joy when, after a few minutes' anxious attention, the big, melancholy eyes unclosed languidly on my face. I was kneeling beside him, quite forgetful of my fresh frilled skirts, the lace sleeves hanging limp from my wrists, spoilt by the plentiful moisture I had bestowed on my patient. I felt more interested in my task even than spoiling of my latest morning toilette.

O, how drearily the poor thing groaned! How reluctantly he came back to life!

I think his senses wandered a little, even when the warm hues of returning animation dyed his lips and cheeks anew with feeble crimson. Staring into my face, with passionate, pathetic eyes, he began to mutter brokenly—

"Is it her face looking down from the clouds? O, Angel! victim! devil! come back! come back!"

If this was the effect of an unfortunate resemblance, I thought I had better keep my poor face out of sight. So, I retreated behind a big easy chair for a few minutes. A voice quite collected and composed recalled me presently from my voluntary banishment.

Dr. Feather, fully restored to himself, again turned on me a pale but perfectly composed face, as I came forward.

"You innocently, most innocently, caused me a severe shock just now, young lady," he said, with a faint smile. "Such a one woman in a hundred would have had your nerve and patience with me. I thank you heartily, most heartily, for letting no one but you and I know of this weakness. I have been overtasked, overworked, in all ways, lately. The necessities of my profession, the necessities of the profession," he sighed wearily. I regarded him with extreme pity. I always thought physicians should have nerves of cast iron to carry them successfully through the scenes of pain and misery it was their daily business to witness, and I said as much, frankly.

"Yes," he replied, sadly, "my life is very hard at times, but a doctor you know is never expected to give way to the pains, mental or bodily, he professes to relieve. You had greater power to cure and restore than I now, but I am glad your mind is stronger than most girls'. Very, very glad."

He repeated the last words over and over again, staring with a glowing unconsciousness before him, evidently forgetting my presence.

For my part I was so interested by this time, I did not care how long he waited for further revelations. I heard the wheels of the returning carriage, and only smiled at the idea of my Aunt's astonishment if she should chance to look in upon my solitary visitor. I heard her voice in the hall down stairs, still I did not stir, but Dr. Feather had listened, too, I found, and next moment was on his feet, with a nervous light in his eyes.

"I must not be seen—that is to say, I am no fit visitor for fine ladies to see," and he forced a laugh, as painful as it was constrained; "let me deliver my errand, and be gone, I promised your father to see his daughter and deliver into her own hands this and this. And now farewell, young lady. Thank God, you have a heart high and pure enough to stand by the man you love."

With these extraordinary parting words he was gone, leaving me standing like one stupified, a few moments, and letters clutched mechanically in my hands. Thus my aunt found me when she entered, which she did a minute later, laden with parcels and complaining of the cold which had even penetrated the well-lined carriage.

"Why, Celestia," she exclaimed, "you look like the tragic muse! What in the name of heaven is the matter, child?"

"I—I hardly know myself," said I, returned, drawing a deep breath, and feeling childishly disposed to cry. It seemed so strange that papa should send this friend—this curious friend—instead of coming himself, and yet more strange, those parting words.

"Auntie," I went on desperately, "am I something deformed or monstrous that papa cannot bear to look upon me? Such an odd doctor, his friend, has been here today and left this and this" (holding up note and present), "and he spoke in the strangest manner to me. What can be the reason that he seems to imagine —"

"Describe the man, tell me exactly what he was like," interrupted my aunt in a brusque, excited tone and manner, very unlike her customary indolent suavity. Was it only because I was in the mood to be suspicious of everything and everybody just now, or did my aunt's cheeks really grow livid beneath her rouge, and her careless eyes dim and disturbed?

She made no comment upon my relation, which I was eagerly waiting for, but frowning thoughtfully to herself, prepared to leave the room.

"Was it not strange, auntie, papa should send that odd man instead of seeing me himself?" I persisted, following her to the door.

"There are things stranger," she returned laconically, "if I were you, my dear, I would read the letter and look at the present before I asked so many questions."

There was evidently no satisfaction to be gained from her, and I turned in despair to my letter, setting aside the present carelessly. It was the first communication I had received from my father, and the most surprising I had ever read in my life.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

From the Bucks County Intelligencer.

MR. DUMP.

How Kriss Kindle was Entertained Unawares.

BY DR. HERMANN.

It was upon a cold night in December many years ago, that Ponto and Puss, with Nellie, Frank and me, sat cosily huddled together on the warm rug by the hearth, watching the crackling of the burning logs, and listening to the weird sounds made by the wind in the chimney. Great shadows trembled about the walls of our snug sitting room, and the air was redolent with a pleasant empyreumatic odor, for which my manly nostrils have often since yearned. Ponto, asleep, with his nose in Nellie's lap, would give a low growl occasionally to signify that his dream was not pleasant, and Puss, with her toes all drawn beneath her warm fur, sat blinking and staring at the fire. The tall old clock ticked solemnly in its shadowy corner, and looked down on our little group in a dignified way, as if it would say to us, "Yes, yes, my little servants, you'd hustle me along; but—tick—tick—I won't go any faster!" It is true there may have been some excuse for the egotistical old fellow, for we had been very attentive to him of late, and seemed to find fresh pleasure every time we looked up at his scarred face; and we clapped our hands with glee whenever we noticed a change in the little spot beneath his stumpy nose where the days of the month were registered. 22 was the number which hung under it then, and we were wishing it was 25—for that meant *Christmas*.

The shutters had been tightly closed; it was morning; papa and mamma were still away in the village. Nellie had warmed his gown and slippers more than an hour before, and her tell-tale face said that she was anxious for his coming.

"Tain't no night for Marse Williams to be out. He'll be ketched in the drift's, I'se warrant," Chloe had exclaimed to Peter.

We sat quietly by this fire waiting until mamma came in with papa and things. Taking Frankie upon her lap, she told us about the brave dogs of St. Bernard, and the hospitable monks who succored and cared for the travelers in the Alpine snows. Some of the blue blood of the St. Bernard ran in Ponto's veins, and Nellie suggested that he should be sent out to fetch his father home. Then we sang, and then Ponto opened his eyes and gave a decidedly ill-natured growl. He got up quickly, and in a moment afterward we heard his bark in the kitchen, and knew that a stranger was there; so we hastened out to see whom our visitor might be. The kitchen door was wide open, and before it stood Peter, shaking the loose snow from his boots, while Chloe brushed it from his clothing with vigorous sweeps of her broom. He was warmly and nicely clad, and upon his shoulders was strapped the pack of a peddler. Casting aside the the thick muffler which enveloped the lower part of his face and neck, a handsome face covered with a full brown beard was disclosed. I felt sure that his heavy moustache hid a smiling mouth, and when he addressed mamma, his tone of voice and manner confirmed me in it.

Once in a while, on bad weather we were called upon to give shelter to a tired and belated traveler along our road, he was handed over to Uncle Peter, who looked after his comfort, and gave him quarters in their own quarters; but never before had we seen a peddler with so much assurance and manner about him. He—only he—had come to his gates and asked for lodging and food, and then he had stepped in as if he owned the whole house, and was going to stay.

Just at break of day, Nellie came to my bedside.

"Oh, Charlie! Charlie! I don't know who he is, mamma or if, and I can't make papa and mamma understand. Such a Christmas tree *you* never dreamed of—and such beautiful things upon it, too. Do come as quickly as you can!"

It did not take me long to do her bidding. I almost stumbled down stairs in my haste to reach the sitting-room; and what a sight met my eyes when I opened the door! A shapely tree, that reached from floor to ceiling, stood at one end of the room, and a hundred wax tapers were burning upon its branches, from which depended a wonderful array of the choicest designs in sugar ornaments. Beneath the spreading limbs a little cottage was nestled, and in front of it lay a miniature lake, upon which mirrored pond a tiny swan sailed beautiful swans. At the back of the cottage was a stable, full of Arabian steeds, and a man was drawing water from a well to give to them. A cow was yearning for her supper over a fence close by him. There was a little boy who sat by a large pond fishing for the gold fish it contained, and every time his unsuccessful hook was thrown into the water the fish ran to it and became captives. The first thing that Nell had spied out was a doll-baby of the first magnitude, wearing a flounced silk dress and jewels. Her hair was a beautiful flaxen, and her eyes of deep blue would open and shut every time that a little spring beneath her bodice was pressed. Frankie, who had made his appearance, discovered a train of cars and locomotive, which, when wound up like a clock, would run around the room several times without stopping. Indeed, there was no end to the handsome things we found. A sled, a pair of bright steel skates, a magic lantern, a seal-skin muffler, and a splendid pocket knife, which I laid claim to; a little wagon, a box of ten pins, shuttle-cock, a sword, drum, and dear knows what else, for Frankie; and, as for Nellie, I can't tell how many pretty things she had. Our exclamations of joyful surprise at length brought dear mamma's loving hands. What a splendid man Mr. Dump is, and what a fine thing it must be to be just such a peddler, I thought, as I went off into dreamland, where I found myself to be a hero rescuing a fair maiden from among the wigwams of her enemy.

When we came down stairs in the morning we discovered papa and Mr. Dump standing by the dining-room window discussing the difficulty there would be in getting through the heavy drifts of snow to the village. They had already breakfasted, and I could see that it was their intention to make the trial.

"If we were provided with snow-shoes, I would show you how to use them," said Mr. Dump. "I have worn them in the Canadas, but I can assure you that they would be very serviceable here. I must ask the privilege of leaving my pack with you until I return."

So he was to come back again. Oh, wasn't that jolly! I had a dozen questions for him to answer, and Nell wanted to know what became of the poor girl who had been so nobly rescued from the Indians.

I noticed that papa wore a long face, and when Mr. Dump, who was very merry, told a funny anecdote, the smile which came to his lips seemed sorely against his will. Of late both papa and mamma were worried about something. I had, more than once, heard him speak of a mortgage, and refer to Mr. Bassett as a man who granted no favors. Frankie and I thought more about the coming of Kriss Kringle than about these troubles which we did not understand; and when he kissed mamma good-bye we wondered more about Mr. Dump's visit to the village than about the business which urged papa to make the trip on such a morning.

"Good-bye, papa!" cried Nellie, as she threw her arms about his neck and drew down his head. "Be sure to get home before it grows dark."

"Good-bye, my little comforter. I'll think of the scolding in store for me if I don't."

"And I, too, must have a kiss," said Mr. Dump, who astonished Nell by taking her into his arms and kissing her upon both cheeks and lips.

"You have robbed papa," faltered Nellie, whose face was scarlet.

"Well said, my dear. But I will see to it that he does not feel aggrieved," and back Mr. Dump, as he strode down the path to the road.

Poor Nell. Every bit of her little body belonged to papa, and her loving heart was never more busy than in devising things for his comfort. When his head ached, her soft hand upon his brow would ease the pain; and when he looked troubled, her gentle caresses and sweet voice seldom failed to soothe.

"What would I do without my little ones, and what would they do should they lose their comfortable home?" he asked us one evening, and mamma answered with away in the village. Nellie had warmed his gown and slippers more than an hour before, and her tell-tale face said that she was anxious for his coming.

"Tain't no night for Marse Williams to be out. He'll be ketched in the drift's, I'se warrant," Chloe had exclaimed to Peter.

We sat quietly by this fire waiting until mamma came in with papa and things. Taking Frankie upon her lap, she told us about the brave dogs of St. Bernard, and the hospitable monks who succored and cared for the travelers in the Alpine snows. Some of the blue blood of the St. Bernard ran in Ponto's veins, and Nellie suggested that he should be sent out to fetch his father home. Then we sang, and then Ponto opened his eyes and gave a decidedly ill-natured growl. He got up quickly, and in a moment afterward we heard his bark in the kitchen, and knew that a stranger was there; so we hastened out to see whom our visitor might be. The kitchen door was wide open, and before it stood Peter, shaking the loose snow from his boots, while Chloe brushed it from his clothing with vigorous sweeps of her broom. He was warmly and nicely clad, and upon his shoulders was strapped the pack of a peddler. Casting aside the the thick muffler which enveloped the lower part of his face and neck, a handsome face covered with a full brown beard was disclosed. I felt sure that his heavy moustache hid a smiling mouth, and when he addressed mamma, his tone of voice and manner confirmed me in it.

Once in a while, on bad weather we were called upon to give shelter to a tired and belated traveler along our road, he was handed over to Uncle Peter, who looked after his comfort, and gave him quarters in their own quarters; but never before had we seen a peddler with so much assurance and manner about him. He—only he—had come to his gates and asked for lodging and food, and then he had stepped in as if he owned the whole house, and was going to stay.

Just at break of day, Nellie came to my bedside.

"Oh, Charlie! Charlie! I don't know who he is, mamma or if, and I can't make papa and mamma understand. Such a Christmas tree *you* never dreamed of—and such beautiful things upon it, too. Do come as quickly as you can!"

It did not take me long to do her bidding. I almost stumbled down stairs in my haste to reach the sitting-room; and what a sight met my eyes when I opened the door! A shapely tree, that reached from floor to ceiling, stood at one end of the room, and a hundred wax tapers were burning upon its branches, from which depended a wonderful array of the choicest designs in sugar ornaments. Beneath the spreading limbs a little cottage was nestled, and in front of it lay a miniature lake, upon which mirrored pond a tiny swan sailed beautiful swans. At the back of the cottage was a stable, full of Arabian steeds, and a man was drawing water from a well to give to them. A cow was yearning for her supper over a fence close by him. There was a little boy who sat by a large pond fishing for the gold fish it contained, and every time his unsuccessful hook was thrown into the water the fish ran to it and became captives. The first thing that Nell had spied out was a doll-baby of the first magnitude, wearing a flounced silk dress and jewels. Her hair was a beautiful flaxen, and her eyes of deep blue would open and shut every time that a little spring beneath her bodice was pressed. Frankie, who had made his appearance, discovered a train of cars and locomotive, which, when wound up like a clock, would run around the room several times without stopping. Indeed, there was no end to the handsome things we found. A sled, a pair of bright steel skates, a magic lantern, a seal-skin muffler, and a splendid pocket knife, which I laid claim to; a little wagon, a box of ten pins, shuttle-cock, a sword, drum, and dear knows what else, for Frankie; and, as for Nellie, I can't tell how many pretty things she had. Our exclamations

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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1874.

Bristow on the Finance Bill.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in speaking about the new Senate Finance bill, expressed the opinion that it was better than nothing, though it did not meet the expectations nor wishes of the department. He thought that any definite action in the direction of a resumption of specie payments was something gained. He expressed the opinion that, in a great measure, the slow recovery of the business of the country from the effects of the panic, was due to the uncertainty which has characterized the action of Congress on the financial question; that if it is once made a definite thing he thinks the effects will be practical, immediate and beneficial.

Dismissals from Postoffice Department.

The weeding out of a large share of Mr. Cresswell's Maryland appointments in the Postoffice Department has commenced. A few days ago notifications were sent to two special agents that their resignations would be accepted, and they were forthwith sent in. One of these was that of Major Griswold, retired Provost Marshal at Richmond. In the Greeley campaign he was the Democratic candidate for Congress from one of the Baltimore districts, but was defeated by Governor Swann, the Greeley candidate. His appointment by Mr. Cresswell was greatly censured, but he was tolerated until Governor Jewell lifted his scalp. Other Marylanders will have to walk within a few days.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 27, 1874.

Cost of the Royal Visit.

The irresponsibility and extravagance in the disbursement of the amount appropriated for the entertainment of the Japanese Embassy, a few years ago, seems not to have been forgotten. The first estimate by the Secretary of State for the entertainment of the King of Hawaii was for fifty thousand dollars. In a subsequent letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations he reduced the amount to thirty thousand dollars. Last Tuesday Gen. Garfield failed in an attempt to put this amount through the House. It is now learned that the actual amount expended does not exceed ten thousand dollars, the principal items being his hotel bill and no small amount of Hennessey. The expense of the card reception and state dinner at the President's house, the only entertainments of the kind given, were defrayed out of the President's private purse. There is now some talk of making up appropriation at all, but letting the amount be taken out of the contingent fund of the State Department.

Suicide of a Clergyman.

This community was shocked to-day by the suicide of Rev. J. N. Coombs, pastor of the Western Presbyterian church of this city. The congregation was in attendance at the usual hour. The pastor not arriving, one of the elders went to his residence, rapped at the door of his room and, receiving no reply, forced an entrance. The pastor was lying upon his bed, his throat cut and a razor by his side. The pastor, whose wife for some time had been in the insane asylum, had of late shown evidences of great depression. This morning he read in one of the newspapers an article by a clergyman arrested for stealing books. The name was not given. Under an unaccountable hallucination, Mr. Coombs imagined that the article referred to him. This led to the fatal act.

Work of Congress this Session.

During the three weeks of the session of Congress, just closed, one hundred and six new bills were introduced in the Senate, and three hundred and thirty-eight in the House. The first bill introduced in the Senate will probably be the last one to pass. It was the bill to provide for a new form of government for the District of Columbia. The two bills first introduced in the House were the Legislative, Executive and Judicial and the Naval appropriation bills, four bills of those kinds passed by the House before adjournment, and are now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. The Senate passed, in all, fourteen bills, of which five were of importance was the new Finance bill. The House passed, in all, eighteen bills, of which three only were of importance were the two appropriation bills mentioned above.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1874.

The River and Harbor Bill.

Before the recess, the House Committee on Appropriations informally considered the River and Harbor bill. The views of the members generally favored the appropriation of the same amounts as last year. This refers particularly to the Western rivers. In the course of this discussion the subject of internal improvements came up, and did not seem to receive much encouragement from members of the committee. Some are in serious doubt as to their constitutional power to make appropriations for such purposes, others admit that Congress can decide what routes should be undertaken, and that the committee would then be obliged to report a bill appropriating the necessary amounts. The River and Harbor bill will be reported in a few days after the reassembling of Congress. The Sundry Civil bill will be ready about the same time.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26, 1874.

VALIDITY OF THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

The validity of the Fifteenth amendment, which provides that the right of citizens of the United States to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged, on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, is at last to be tested by the Supreme Court. The case comes up on the certification of a division of opinion among the Circuit Judges in Kentucky. Two judges of election in Lexington are alleged to have refused to receive the votes of two colored men on account of color. Arguments in the case will begin on Wednesday, January 6th. The Attorney General will represent the Government, and ex-Attorney General Stanbery, the defendants.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 27, 1874.

INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

Internal revenue receipts to date, for December, are $7,684,159. It is estimated that they will be $9,000,000 for the entire month, being more than one million dollars over the corresponding month of last year. The receipts for the months ending with December 31st, will be over $53,000,000.

WHOLESALE DISCHARGE FROM THE TREASURY.

Four hundred men and women were yesterday discharged from the Engraving and Printing Bureau of the Treasury, in consequence of a large part of the work on the Bureau having been transferred to New York.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 28, 1874.

ACTS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President has signed the act providing for the authentication of the revised statutes of the United States by comparing the originals of all laws in the Department of State; also the act for the relief of certain settlers on public lands, which makes it lawful for homestead and pre-emption settlers whose crops were destroyed or seriously injured by grasshoppers to be absent from said lands until July, 1876.

ERIE.

Revolting Murder of a Woman—The Body of the Victim Thrown Into the Street—Great Excitement in the City.

ERIE, PA., December 27.—A horrible and atrocious murder was perpetrated in this city about seven o'clock last night. Catharine Hannon (widow), a midwife by profession, was found dead in the gutter at nine o'clock, just outside a low groggery called the Franklin House. The inquest is not concluded, but there is no doubt that the woman was murdered during or after an attempt at rape by John Healy, the proprietor of the house, a man sixty years old. The woman was addicted to drink, and was probably intoxicated at the time of the murder. Healy has a peaceable reputation, but is a notorious profligate. He is in custody, with the members of his family. His clothing and underwear are found stained with fresh blood, and the floor of the bar-room of the hotel likewise exhibits plain traces of blood. Mrs. Hannon's body was mutilated in a frightful manner and bore evidences of strangulation. She has a family of highly respected children, and the murder has aroused intense excitement.

THE INDIANS.

Surrender of Warriors, Squaws, Papooses and Ponies—White Female Captives Demanded.

ST. LOUIS, December 26.—The following information was received at army headquarters to-day: Eight warriors, thirty-nine squaws and papooses and sixty-two ponies belonging to the Medicine Water band of Cheyennes, surrendered unconditionally at Cheyenne Agency on the 20th inst. Two white women are now with Stone Calf, who is said to have two hundred lodges on the Staked Plains. Two messengers from Stone Calf have arrived asking for peace. Word has been sent him that he can surrender unconditionally, and a demand was made for the white women.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

England.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT—THIRTY KILLED AND FIFTY WOUNDED.

LONDON, December 24.—A shocking railway accident occurred to-day, near the town of Woodstock, Oxfordshire. An express train on a branch of the Great Western Railway was thrown from the track and precipitated down an embankment. Several of the carriages fell into the canal skirting the road. Thirty persons were killed and fifty wounded. Some of the latter are fatally injured. All have been conveyed to Oxford.

MINE EXPLOSION—TWENTY KILLED.

LONDON, December 24.—An explosion occurred in Bignall Hill colliery, North Staffordshire, to-day. Twenty miners were killed. Thirteen bodies have been taken out.

EMIGRANT SHIP BURNED AT SEA—NEARLY FIVE HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

LONDON, December 28—5 A. M.—A telegram has been received from Madeira stating that three of the crew of the emigrant ship Cospatrick, from London for New York, had arrived at St. Helena and reported the Cospatrick burned at sea. The report lacks confirmation, but it is feared that the crew and passengers of the Cospatrick, numbering five hund

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1875.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The publishers of our ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE, in the East, having discontinued its publication, we shall be unable to furnish it to subscribers hereafter. We ask the indulgence of our patrons, in this matter, for the reason that the failure is wholly beyond our control.

COMMISSIONER DOUGLASS estimates that the amount of tax paid into the Treasury by the national banks for the year now closing, will aggregate $9,000,000; which is $1,500,000 more than was collected last year.

A HARRISBURG Democratic paper says that if its party wants to elect the Governor in 1875, they must take their candidate from the West. All right. Let them take BROWN, of the Marion *Democrat*. He is immensely popular.

THE Democrats, generally, do not object to the re-imposition of the duty upon tea and coffee; but when it comes to increasing the tax on whisky ten cents per gallon, they cry out. Touch them *there* and you touch the tenderest spot about them.

IT IS a significant fact that, notwithstanding the generally depressed condition of the iron industries of England, all her armor plate mills are fully employed, and that what is true of Great Britain in this particular is true also of the leading countries of the European continent. It carries with it its own portentous moral.

HENRY WARD BEECHER persists in fighting out his battle with TILTON in the columns of the newspapers, while the latter prefers to try it in the courts, where the case properly belongs. The intense anxiety of BEECHER to get his case before the newspaper jury is evidence of his unwillingness to abide a strictly judicial scrutiny.

DULLNESS in the leading branches of trade, East, is just now the rule rather than the exception. Nearly the whole business world is temporarily engaged in wiping the slate clean for the cyphering of another year's fate; but those who take a comprehensive view of commercial affairs anticipate an early condition full of industrial activity and hope.

THE total vote of Louisiana, as officially declared by the Returning Board, for Representatives in Congress, was 71,627 Democratic, and 67,465 Republican; a Democratic majority of 4,162. The Democrats carried three districts, and the Republicans three. The vote for State Treasurer was 69,544 Republican, and 68,586 Democratic; a Republican majority of 958.

THE heavy disbursement of dividends which will take place within a day or two, amounting in Boston, Philadelphia and New York to the estimated sum of $150,000,000, to say nothing of dividends at other leading commercial centers, may reasonably be expected to infuse considerable life into the various commercial and industrial interests of the country at a comparatively early day.

THE "hard times" seems to have had little effect in the way of retarding building improvements in Philadelphia. During the year just closing, permits were issued for 5,040 new buildings, and 1,434 for alterations and additions, while in 1873 the number of new buildings reached 5,221, and of alterations and additions 1,333. Of the 5,040 new structures this year erected, 4,309 are dwelling houses. "The City of Homes" is in no present danger of losing its title.

THE merchandise imports at New York last week reached a valuation of $2,965,573, and the exports $8,065,886, of which amount $2,257,036 was specie. The total valuation of the merchandise imports since January 1, is $380,355,233, against $380,963,-109 last year, and $418,915,609 in 1872. The total exports of produce during the same period are $281,672,623, against $293,273,871 last year, and $230,324,933 in 1872. The total specie exports during the year are $60,638,-504, against $47,596,138 last year, and $70,-550,039 in 1872.

THE amendments to the Constitution of New York, adopted at the last election, go into effect on the 1st of January. One of them requires the members of the Legislature to take an oath that they did not use corrupt means to secure their election. The Legislature does not organize until after this provision goes into effect; but most of the Democratic members have hastened to be sworn in under the Constitution, as it is, thus virtually confessing that they *did* use corrupt means to secure their election. And we have no doubt they did.

WITH reference to the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada, it is said that the Dominion Parliament will insist on putting Great Britain on a footing of perfect equality with our own country in regard to the duties upon its imports. We have always maintained that the real object of the scheme was to make Canada the port of entry to the United States, by which British manufactures might be admitted free—and here is proof of it. But it is of comparatively little importance what the Dominion Government proposes to "insist" on—the treaty will not be ratified here.

LEAD and zinc enter into so many uses, and their consumption increases so rapidly, that we, at least at present, no possible danger of overstocking the markets. Hence the mining of those minerals is an unusually profitable industry. The St. Louis *Democrat* says that fifty thousand additional miners, or even a greater number, could make fortunes in the lead and zinc districts of Missouri. No doubt that State is wonderfully rich in mineral resources; and it is a thousand pities that its political and social condition is such as inevitably to repel capital and labor instead of attracting them.

IGNORANCE and crime, it has been proved over and over, go hand in hand. The recent report of the National Prison Association shows that forty-eight per cent. of the convicts in the United States can neither read nor write.—*Exchange.*

If the fact that forty-eight per cent. of the convicts in the United States cannot read or write, proves that ignorance and crime go hand in hand, what does the other fact prove, that fifty-two per cent. of them *can* read and write? The percentage on that side being the greatest, does it follow, also, that education and crime go hand in hand to think not; but one conclusion is as fair as the other.

THE budget of New York city for 1875 is $37,000,000. It costs as much to govern that intensely Democratic city as it does to manage the affairs of the four great States of New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio. All that is necessary to secure an expensive government is to give the Democracy full swing. The bonded debt, alone, of the city which delighted to honor TWEED, exceeds the entire bonded debts of the States of New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, all added together. And yet it is the worst governed city upon the American continent, to-day.

ELSEWHERE we print a letter from a former citizen of Pittsburgh, now a resident of Nebraska, concerning the destitution and suffering in that State—consequent on the ravages of the grasshoppers—whose plain, unvarnished sentences, eloquent with the realism of woe, ought surely, in this most gracious season of charity and humanity, to appeal not in vain to the inmost heart of even the most callous. The writer is vouched for by a number of our most prominent business men as in all respects honorable and worthy of perfect credence. Something should be done, and that quickly. We suggest that the churches of our two cities take the initiative in the matter next Sunday.

GOV. TILDEN, of New York, will take strong ground, in his first message to the Legislature, against the financial bill pending in Congress. He will denounce it, not as being wrong in itself, but as anticipating the work which he thinks the *next* Congress should do. He does not care how much the country suffers in the meantime. The only thing he is anxious about is, that his party should have all the credit of whatever is done. If he were a statesman, as he should be, instead of a pitiful demagogue, as he is, he would rejoice at the early settlement of a vexatious question, without regard to its effect upon parties. The true statesman always inquires, concerning the effect of any pending measure, how will it affect the country? while the mere politician inquires, how will it affect our party? TILDEN plainly belongs to the latter class, and he will denounce the Finance bill solely because it robs his party of the credit of passing it.

MARS AND EARTH.

Fifteen or more years ago great Dr. WHEWELL wrote a little book which, some admiring readers said, had forever exploded the fancy that there are more worlds than one. There was a time when such an achievement would have been regarded by churchmen and by religious people in general as a splendid service rendered to orthodoxy. In those days a plurality of worlds was supposed to be inconsistent with the facts and teaching of Holy Scripture. Times, however, had changed so much that many religious men read DR. WHEWELL'S book with indignation and disgust, and one of them, Sir DAVID BREWSTER, an elder in the Free Kirk of Scotland, wrote a reply, in which, as many thought, he did himself more credit as a saint than as a scientist. While not failing to treat the subject scientifically, he also treated it passionately, and seemed to think an uninhabitable universe incompatible with the Divine attributes as revealed in the Bible. The most satisfactory apology offered for the spirit of Sir DAVID'S book was the spirit of the book to which it was a response, as it could not be denied that the Cambridge mathematician seemed to take a certain pleasure in portraying the arid, desolate, gloomy aspect of the planets as then exposed by instruments to the eye of science. He was evidently, first and before all, scientific, resolute to accept only facts, however repulsive, and especially determined to banish even from the popular mind the fanciful sentimentalism with which FONTENELLE and others has invested the subject of a plurality of worlds.

The controversy between Doctors WHEWELL and BREWSTER excited not a little interest, which was not confined to Great Britain. Their books were translated into the languages of the Continent, and, after some time, in consequence of the curiosity thus wakened, M. FLAMMARION, a popular French writer on scientific and semi-scientific subjects, published his work on the Plurality of Inhabited Worlds. He took the same side of the question BREWSTER had taken, and did the best he could to make it appear probable that the planets, many of them at least, like the earth, are occupied by living beings. Recently M. FLAMMARION has recalled attention to the old controversy, and to his book, saying that when it was first published he had no hope of so soon seeing his thesis confirmed by the progress of astronomy, "enabling us, as it were, to touch with the finger the manifestations of planetary life." France, it seems, has been favored in the fall with-in its territory of aerolites, those specimens or samples of other worlds, in their own substance bringing to us those elements which play the most important part in animal and vegetable life, such as oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, etc. Thus an aerolite which fell in 1864 at Orgueil, departement of Tarn-et-Garonne, contained carbonic matter of vegetable origin. Another aerolite which fell in 1872 at Lance, contained salt. Aerolites have also brought us water in solid form. Farther, by spectrum analysis we discover in the planetary atmospheres watery vapor identical with that which produces our mists, clouds and rain. On these grounds alone we might conclude that the worlds which furnish aerolites and aqueous vapor do not differ essentially from the world we inhabit.

But in the opinion of M. FLAMMARION, the telescopic examination of the planet Mars offers the most comprehensive and clearest evidence of the existence of life beyond our earth. The resemblances between the two bodies are truly remarkable, and as the situation of Mars relative to us presents excellent facilities for observation, as its motions enabled KEPLER to discover the planetary laws known by his name, M. FLAMMARION feels sure, that the study of the same planet is destined to confirm the doctrine of a plurality of worlds. By this twofold service of disclosing the secrets of planetary revolution and the fact of a planetary population, "Mars will have merited the esteem of thinking humanity" and will perhaps have afforded some compensation and ground of pardon for those follies and cruelties which Mars the god of war, has during so long a period instigated among the poor, unreasonable inhabitants of the earth. A very superfine Fyrwa sentiment, apparently, pervades FONTENELLE. In the hope then of ascertaining the great astronomical secret still to be discovered, M. FLAMMARION has patiently devoted himself to the investigation of Mars, and in view of its phenomena, he has hardly a doubt that the similarity between it and the earth in so many particulars renders inevitable the desired conclusion. Looking at the planet through a telescope, one is most struck by the bright, white appearance of the poles. There are manifestly there two frigid zones. The icy region differs in extent with the season. In winter the ice is piled up and extends far around the pole, and in summer it melts and contracts its area. The ice mass, however, extends considerably farther than ours over the planet, sometimes reaching down to the forty-fifth degree of latitude, that is, to countries corresponding with the position of France on the earth. Still Mars may be said to have not only its frigid, but its temperate and torrid zones.

Astronomers usually ascribe the peculiar fiery red color of Mars to its atmosphere, that is, to the absorption of its atmosphere, but FLAMMARION rejects this view for reasons which seem sufficiently good. He supposes the characteristic color of the planet—which really affects only its terrestrial surface—to be, about three-fourths of the area of the star—to be due to the vegetation. He imagines red meadows, red forests, red fields, red being the characteristic color of vegetable products there as green is their characteristic color with us.

That there is water on Mars has been proved by the spectroscope, and the green spots visible on the surface of the planet are believed to be seas, stretches of water analogous to those of earth. The water revealed by the spectroscope being of the same chemical composition as terrestial water, there are oxygen and hydrogen on the planet. Having snow, water, mists, vegetable products, etc., one is able to form some distinct conceptions of Martial meteorology, and perceive that its phenomena do not vary widely from those of our earthly weather. On Mars, as on earth, the Sun is the great agent of movement and life, and its action determines effects analogous to those with which we are familiar. Heat converts the water of the seas into vapor, and raises it into the atmosphere. Vapor assumes visible form by the same process which gives origin to clouds with us, that is, by difference of temperature. From the same difference winds arise, etc. It is not necessary to follow out the details. The existence of seas and continents on the planet show that it, like our own, has been the scene of great geological movements causing upheavals and depressions of the crust. Hence mountains, valleys, plains, basins, precipices—in a word, an earth much like our own. Then, to complete the resemblance, the seasons of Mars are very like those of earth in some respects, though considerably differing in others. In view of the conditions and forces absolutely known to exist in Mars, M. FLAMMARION thinks it impossible to hesitate in assuming that there, as on earth, living beings must have been the result. He even supposes that "an incomprehensible interdiction, a supreme veto, something like a permanent miracle of annihilation," would have been necessary to prevent the process of evolution from producing the effects there which it has produced here.

Though the foregoing hurried statement does poor justice to M. FLAMMARION'S speculation, it may serve to waken curiosity and turn attention to the subject.

A CONTRAST.

When M. GUIZOT was KING LOUIS PHILIPPE'S first Minister, and one day, in the Chamber of Deputies, was most perseveringly badgered and insulted by certain members of the opposition, the great leader, in reply, said that "they might by their factious assaults wear out and exhaust his physical energy, but that they could never reach the level of his contempt." As the haughty glance and whole appearance of the speaker corresponded with and confirmed his words, the impression was such as could never be forgotten, either by the friends or the enemies of the Minister. It is now known, however, that from that memorable parliamentary conflict GUIZOT went home so ill that his family feared for his life. A late scene in the German Reichstag presents BISMARCK in striking contrast to GUIZOT. The Chancellor, in the course of the debate, thought proper to repeat the conversation he had held with KULLMANN, his would-be assassin. With body bent forward and resting on his right arm, in a voice tremulous with suppressed emotion, he deliberately stated what he had said to the ruffian and what the ruffian had said to him. As in this colloquy KULLMANN had claimed to be the avenger of the Ultramontane party, a violent storm at once followed the speech in which this claim had been repeated. BISMARCK had taken his seat and was quietly watching the scene, when an aristocratic champion of the church, in the way of response to a reference made by a speaker to the Chancellor's statement, uttered an emphatic "pshaw!" Then BISMARCK quickly rose, and "with a quite indescribable look and tone of derisive disdain," said—"The interjection 'pshaw' implies disgust and contempt. Believe me, gentlemen, those feelings are not foreign to me, but I am too courteous to give them expression." The "pshaw" had been rebuked by the President; BISMARCK'S words, though strong, were not unparliamentary, and from the applause with which they were received, it was evident that the speaker had well understood his audience. Doubtless BISMARCK is as proud and arrogant as GUIZOT, but in the German there are elements which the Frenchman seems to have wholly lacked, bonhommie, sympathy, tact.

BISMARCK, with all his remarkable qualities, is thoroughly human. GUIZOT, as stated above, went home thoroughly unwell from the effects of a parliamentary struggle. BISMARCK, it seems, on the day of the conflict just mentioned, was very ill, and before going to the Reichstag was afraid of being unable to attend to his duties there. But he returned home feeling much better and more cheerful than usual, and on being asked by his wife what had caused the change, he replied, smiling, "O, I have had a little row (*Paukerei*)!" This bit of information on a high subject—quid Juno confabulata est cum Jove—we owe to a kind correspondent who enjoyed the happiness of attending one of the usual soirees at the Chancellor's palace. The Prince, being especially well and in good humor, was very communicative, and as two pistols, neither new nor elegant, were lying on the table in one of the parlors, they became the subject of conversation. One of them had been used by KULLMANN and the other had been used by BLIND, the young man who attacked BISMARCK under the Lindens on the 6th of May, 1866. The Prince told his guests that he had received in all four shots from BLIND, but that on account of the weakness of the weapon they had not hurt him. In fact, the revolver was one of the old-fashioned kind; for convenience and concealment in carrying it the forward barrels had been screwed off, and the small hinder barrels, contrary to BLIND'S supposition, proved too feeble for his purpose. BLIND was a powerful young man, and BISMARCK felt almost exhausted by his struggle with him, when fortunately the grenadier watch came up. But the first soldier not knowing the Prince by sight and taking for granted that the larger of the two men must be the aggressor in the quarrel he presumed, was about to knock BISMARCK down with his mace, when the commanding officer opportunely arrived and seized the weapon.

THE REVIVAL OF SOUTHERN CHIVALRY.

In the days of slavery, Southern Chivalry consisted of that high-toned devotion to Southern ideas which did not shrink from whipping women and selling babies, and was very decisive in denying to every one the right to entertain any opinions differing from those of the Chivalry itself. The "blue League of Louisiana" is now trying to bring back the good old days when this sort of thing was supreme; and the recent street fight in New Orleans, in which ex-Governor WARMOTH was a party, was an illustration of the utter intolerance which characterizes the Southern whites. They cannot, for the present, indulge in the luxuries of woman-whipping and baby-selling as they could in the old times; but they can display their old tyrannical habit of assaulting all who differ from them, especially if they know the latter to be unarmed. The whole story of the WARMOTH affray is thus told in the Chicago *Tribune*:

> The *Bulletin*, an ultra Democratic organ, not content with the troubles Louisiana has already suffering, and determined to have the *ancien regime* or nothing, began some days ago to demand that the negroes should not be allowed to ride in the same street cars as the whites, but that one car in every five or six, especially designated by a star, should be provided for their exclusive use. This, it seems, had been the custom prior to Warmoth's administration, and as Warmoth had been instrumental in breaking it up, he had to come in for his share of the abuse. Warmoth replied in a card, in which he recalled the unification meeting held a couple of years ago under the auspices of leading men in both parties, which, he said, was a pledge of a fight to the finish. The answer made by the *Bulletin* to this card was a volley of personal abuse. Thereupon Mr. Warmoth wrote another card in which he recited a list of facts in relation to the career of Mr. Jewett, editor of the *Bulletin*, not very creditable to the latter. Mr. Jewett then sent around a friend to Mr. Warmoth to ask him what he would fight. Warmoth's answer was, in effect, that he was not a fighting man; that he would rather not fight, but that it would be time enough to decide on the question of the challenge. Jewett sent the challenge, and, evidently, contrary to his expectation, it was accepted. The duel was arranged to take place on Monday evening, however, as Sunday in Alabama. But Saturday Warmoth was attacked on the public streets by Byerly, a partner of Jewett's, who struck Warmoth several times with a heavy cane, while Warmoth was unarmed, but closed in upon his assailant with an open pocket-knife in order to save his life; and in the fall, Warmoth still retaining his knife in his hand, stabbed Byerly several times. The latter soon died from his wounds.
>
> We do not see wherein Warmoth can be blamed for any part he has taken in this controversy, except his acceptance of Jewett's challenge. Yet it is possible to conceive that a man living in a community like that of New Orleans should almost be forced into such an error in order to sustain his self-respect. But, however much Warmoth may have erred in accepting the challenge, the acceptance certainly ought to have protected him from assault in a community where the Code is recognized. It looks very much as though the Jewett-Byerly party are a set of poltroons, cowards and bullies. It seems to be perfectly clear that they expected to intimidate Warmoth after he had admitted that he was not a fighting man. Failing in this, they were to have pounced upon him while he was not expecting it, and thus either kill him or disable him so that he should not face his opponent at the appointed hour. The object of the attack was dastardly; the attack itself of a most cowardly nature. Warmoth, considering he was confessedly not a fighting man, defended himself lustily; and, while the killing of his assailant was not probably within the scope of his intentions, it is a result which no decent man will be inclined to regret. Byerly richly deserved the fate that overtook him.

A WESTERN correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* notes that whereas, a few years ago, the tide of population was constantly tending westward, and could find no stopping place short of the great western plains, it is now setting eastward, and many who pressed forward into the van when the tide was westward, are now returning, impoverished, ruined in health, and utterly broken down in body and purse. The grasshoppers, the chinch-bug, the dry seasons, and the great distance from market, have all combined to demonstrate that the people have been pushing westward a little too fast. There is an abundance of unoccupied land in all of the older States, to satisfy the wants of those who are landless. There has been and there is no necessity for this wild haste to fight the unkindly elements in Kansas and Nebraska. Pennsylvania and Virginia, Ohio and West Virginia, Indiana and Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee, Michigan, Wisconsin and Missouri, New York and New Jersey, all are yet able to present large unoccupied surfaces that would well repay the efforts of those who have exhausted their energies in fighting insect plagues and the thoughts of the plains. It is a good sign to see them turning back; and it will be still more encouraging to see them content to settle where their labors are more certain of reward. This yearning to get out on the frontier was irresistible while it lasted. It had a dash of adventure in it, and the hope of seeing rich settlements grow up rapidly around them was a very pleasant one to the adventurers, even if it has proved delusive. Drought and the grasshoppers have disenchanted them, and have drawn a line of fire beyond which it is not safe to pass. An acre of land well cultivated in Pennsylvania is worth any ten acres on the frontiers of civilization; and a small farm, near to those who consume its products, is worth more than a large one so far removed from the consumers that the cost of transportation eats up all it produces. Let all who have the emigrating fever take these things into account, and be satisfied with the opportunities that offer nearer home.

THE suggestion is made that the only safe way out of the Louisiana difficulty is for Congress to declare the State government at an end, and remit the State to its territorial condition. This was, we believe, the original project of that great statesman, THADDEUS STEVENS, when the Reconstruction question first came up. He would then have treated all the Southern States as territories, and held them as such until each of them gave evidence of inherent ability to carry on a State government in which equal and exact justice could be done to all classes of its citizens. The hostility of ANDREW JOHNSON, then acting President, to this sensible plan of settlement, defeated it and drove the country into the premature readmission into the Union of the Southern States, with their old powers and privileges. That was the grand mistake from which those States are now suffering. If they could all now be remitted to a territorial condition it would be much better for them. Certainly they would all be better governed, and we should not be compelled to witness the disgrace of the restoration of the old reign of the pistol and the bowie knife, and the rule of terror and intimidation which now prevails in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Mississippi. We do not exactly see how these States can now be sent back into the territorial condition; but where there is a will there is a way, and all that is really wanting is the will to do it.

THE death of that truly noble man, GERRIT SMITH, has called out from all sections of the newspaper press the strongest encomiums ever heaped upon the head of a man so prominent in public life as he has been. Every body has a good, kind word for him. He lived a pure life, and made a grand use of the abundant means in his hands. His great ambition was to do good and to promote the highest interests of his fellow men. His heart was always open to the pleas of the suffering and the oppressed, and although he was ultra in all his views, his patriotism and his humanity were always uppermost. America has never produced a nobler specimen of a MAN, and the general recognition of his virtues and qualities, now that he has passed away, show that a right and unselfish use of great means and abilities, and a high standard of thought and action, will win universal approval quicker and more surely than a course of life which involves merely selfish and sensuous gratification. GERRIT SMITH was a true philanthropist, and therefore a true Christian man. He loved his fellow men, because he loved GOD, and the record of his beautiful life bears witness to the union which binds true religion and humanity inseparably together.

STATE NEWS.

Joseph Muskettmuss is in jail at Lancaster for taking part in a knifing muss.

Mr. J. A. Weakley was found dead in an alley in York, on Christmas morning.

There were 278 deaths in Philadelphia last week—forty-one from consumption.

Funny error. A Reading paper spoke of "first class Asiatic fools." Fowls were meant.

John McCarty, an aged man, dropped dead at his home, near Franklin, on the 24th inst.

A Harrisburg landlady cowhides those of her boarders who fail to pay promptly for their "hash."

The Pottsville *Journal* people are spoiling their good-looking paper by printing ugly wood-cuts.

Within a fortnight a woman in Erie was divorced from her husband, courted and married another.

The City Engineer of Erie has resigned, under pressure of newspaper charges of all sorts of irregularities in office.

Captain Samuel Felter and wife, of Sunbury, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on the 23d of December.

The latest in Philadelphia is that a prominent official of one of the national banks in the city is a defaulter to a large amount.

John Latsa, a farmer of North Strabane, Washington county, shot himself on Monday. No further particulars have been received.

J. Lenthal Sheffield, bookkeeper for an insurance firm in Wilkesbarre, went off the other day, and so did $300 of his employers' cash.

A farmer in the vicinity of Hamburg poisoned some rats in his cellar and found among them one rat as white as snow—a decided curiosity.

At a ball in Phœnixville on Christmas night, a desperado named Thomas Ready shot and seriously wounded a police officer named Moore.

And now they do say that Dan. Rice has finally determined to retire from the sawdust arena, and is organizing a circus company at Girard for his farewell tour.

Rev. Joel Swartz, of Williamsport, has accepted a call to become pastor of the Messiah Lutheran congregation at Philadelphia, and moves to that city this week.

The Hon. John DeYoung, a prominent citizen and one of the Associate Judges of Monroe county, died at Stroudsburg, on Wednesday last, at the age of seventy-one years.

The Hibernia Engine Company, No. 1, of Philadelphia, has been officially recognized as the oldest fire company in that city. It was organized February 20th, 1752.

A meeting of tanners will be held at Wilcox, on the 12th of January, to take action in regard to railroad freights and other matters affecting the trade in leather.

The Pennsylvania Steel Company at Harrisburg purchased 500 turkeys to distribute gratuitously among the married employees at the works for a Christmas dinner.

The next absorbing question to be debated by the Reading Lyceum is: "What warms a man most of a cold morning: hot coffee in the stomach or hot punches on the nose."

The Coroner's jury in the Mrs. Hannan case at Erie brought in a verdict of wilful murder, and charge John A. Hantz with the crime. The evidence against him is overwhelming.

An organization to be known as "The Cheese Club," is talked of in Coatesville, Chester county. "In union there is strength," it is said; there ought to be a jolly sight of strength in a cheese club, too.

A party of Harrisburgers went deer-hunting on Saturday, and one of them, Edson A. Sible, was shot and killed by another, Philip Lehr, who mistook him for a deer. The accident occurred in Blair county.

An old man named Keach, living near Altoona, fell on Christmas day, while pulling off his boots, and broke his leg. Now let some one tack on a "moral" against pulling off boots on Christmas.

Edinboro, Erie county, is agape over a case of sewn, may-, just now, in which a promissory attorney and Justice of the Peace is charged with adultery, the other party being his orphan ward, who is described as of feeble intellect.

His Excellency Governor Hartranft is to act as Grand Director of the Grand Tournoi of the Commanderies of Knights Templar of Philadelphia, at the Academy of Music and Horticultural Hall, in that city, on the evening of January 6th.

Constable Karcher, of Pottsville, claims that he has arrested twenty murderers during the last three years, but states that not a single one of them has been executed. He blames the bulk of crimes in the Schuylkill district upon the Molly Maguires.

A scoundrel named Koons attempted to outrage the person of a little girl aged seven years, whom he had enticed into a brewery in Allentown, but children's screams caused him incontinently to desist. He was allowed to leave the place without prosecution.

Huntingdon contemplates indulging in water works to the amount of $65,943 90, and then the water supply is to be taken from the Juniata river at a point a mile and a quarter from town. If they want any one to manipulate the bonds, let them send to Pittsburgh.

The Barre Forge property, advertised to be disposed of by the Sheriff of Huntingdon county, was purchased at private sale a few days ago by A. L. Rumford, of Bethlehem. This saves all the creditors, and doubtless leaves a margin for the former owners.

The Titusville *Courier* again sounds a warning to oil men. It says the best territory at "the front" is rapidly passing into the hands of a gigantic monopoly, and says if "the South Improvement Company, under whatever name, takes possession of the producing business in Western Pennsylvania, the *Courier* will have no share of responsibility for such a result."

The Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin* says that at the late exhibition of the Franklin Institute, there were weighed 15,810 men, aggregating 2,314,570 pounds; 17,437 women, aggregating 2,249,570 pounds, making the average weight of each man 148¾ pounds, and of each woman 129 pounds. This statement shows that though women may not have their rights, they have their weight.

The Allentown *Chronicle* of the 28th says: The prospects in the coal regions point to an almost certain idleness among the miners for the first three months of the new year. The operators and the miners have agreed upon no basis of wages for 1875, the former insisting on a reduction of the prices paid in 1874, and the latter insisting on an advance. And so the matter stands for the present.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Parkersburg and the Little Kanawha Valley—Navigation Enterprise—Timber, Coal, Oil and Agricultural Resources.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The improvement of the Little Kanawha river by lakes and dams, which furnishes slackwater from the mouth of the river, at Parkersburg, to near the mouth of the West fork river, about forty miles above, having just been successfully completed, it may be of interest to your readers to learn something more about a section of country, in which investments already made by business men from your vicinity will soon be followed by others on a much larger scale. Not only the capitalist or speculator, but also the manufacturer, the artisan, the farmer and grazier of your densely settled State, will be interested to know that in this favored section, where nature has done so much, man has assisted comparatively very little, and that whether for lumbering or farming purposes, is still held at prices which prevailed in Alleghe ny county, Pa., about half a century ago, although the locality is scarcely inferior in natural wealth and capacity for prosperous development.

THE CITY OF PARKERSBURG,

at the mouth of the Little Kanawha river, is situated about 200 miles below Pittsburgh, at the point where the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crosses the Ohio river. The city occupies one of the most eligible situations west of the Alleghenies, 625 feet above trade water, gradually rising from the river to a plateau about one hundred feet above low water mark, with two well graded intervening benches, the lower one of which is about 50 feet above high water mark. The healthfulness of the location by the highest floods known. The city, so far as it is built up, embraces about three square miles, and is surrounded by an extent of territory admirably adapted to city and suburban residences, to suit every purse and taste. From Prospect hill, an isolated prominence in the center of the plateau, a magnificent view is obtained for miles up and down the river, embracing among the rest the splendid railroad bridge and the far-famed and romantic Island of Blennerhassett. High hills, such as obstruct the view around Pittsburgh and the expansion of that city, are not in sight here, and the landscape within the whole range of vision impresses the beholder with high capacity for agricultural and industrial development.

ACCESSIBILITY.

The distance from Parkersburg by rail, is to Baltimore, 382 miles; to Washington, 405 miles; to New York, 588 miles; to Pittsburgh, 180 miles; to Cincinnati, 190 miles; to Wheeling, 304 miles.

By river: to Wheeling, 92 miles; to Pittsburgh, 190 miles; to Cincinnati, 277 miles. In addition to railroad and river, two partly macadamized turnpikes and numerous country roads give access to the interior of the State. This point is justly regarded as the key to navigation of the Ohio river, being generally accessible from below when navigation above has entirely ceased. Moreover, it is practically the nearest point to Eastern seaports for all freight and travel coming from the West and South, since from any river point below the distance East is increased by railroad travel, and from any point above, by river navigation. Since the completion of the Ohio river bridge, the Parkersburg branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has become the main stem, and carries by far the greatest portion of the freight and travel. At present, ten passenger trains pass this point every day, while the freight trains vary from thirty to forty. River communication is supplied by daily packet lines to Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, connecting with Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

THE CLIMATE

of this vicinity, like that of the remainder of the State, is so notoriously salubrious, that it is scarcely necessary to dwell upon statistical figures. Agues not only are dangerous in this section, but does not flourish here when imported. Epidemics are very rare, and generally of a milder type than west or south of us. The rainfall of this section is about 34 inches, and is rapidly absorbed by the porous surface. A thunder storm or cold spell seldom last over three or four days in their respective seasons.

POPULATION.

Under this head Parkersburg is the second city in the State, numbering about 7,000, of which 5,500 are white natives of this and other States of the Union, 1,000 or foreign birth, principally Irish and German, and 500 colored. The county of Wood, of which Parkersburg is the capital, numbered 19,000 in 1870, and ranks second in the State in the rate of increase. The Virginia portion of the population has preserved many commendable traits of its ancestry, and the feeling towards strangers is one of unfeigned courtesy and hospitality. The lack of industrial enterprise, among that class, is the only unfavorable characteristic, though little else could be expected from the older generations who were reared here in the good days of slavery, and owe their present wealth principally to the fortuitous enhancement of real estate.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The city is regularly laid out in blocks and squares, with wide streets, chiefly graded, surface drained, in part graveled and tastily lined with shade trees. A large proportion of the business houses and dwellings are substantially built of brick, some of them with considerable taste and elegance. The general appearance of the city is cleanly, trim and tasty, cheerful and attractive. Gas light was introduced eight years ago, and an abundance of pure water is supplied from public and private wells. A large and well paved wharf, fronting both rivers, and extensive freight depots facilitate the landing and shipping. A modern built Court House, market house, and a United States building for the accommodation of a Custom House, Postoffice and Federal Court being erected at a cost of $150,000, figure among the principal improvements of the city. Among the educational and benevolent institutions may be mentioned ten churches of various denominations, Young Men's Christian Association, high grade and common free schools, the Catholic academy for young ladies, a school for boys of the same denomination, two private academies for girls, and a superior academy for boys, and a lyceum or literary society building with meetings.

THE BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS

consist of three banks, with an aggregate capital of $450,000; three Building and loan associations, with large capital; several river navigation and transportation companies, railroad offices and four newspapers, of which one is daily.

THE PRICE OF REAL ESTATE,

after a sudden speculative enhancement consequent upon the oil excitement of 1864–5, underwent quite a depression, from which it is now steadily emerging. Building lots for private residences, from 40 to 50 by 180 feet, range all the way from $150 to $3,000, according to situation; business lots in desirable positions from $1,000 to $10,000 per lot. Within a radius of two miles from the corporation line, well improved farms on the Little Kanawha river are held at $100 to $200 per acre, and twenty miles from the city, at points in the Ohio river bottom. Beyond this limit, farms in Wood county with fair improvements can be had at from $40 to $60 per acre; unimproved lands from $5 to $25 per acre, according to accessibility of timber. City rents range from $5 to $30 per month for dwellings, and from $400 to $800 per annum for stores on the ground floor, and $1,000 and upwards of upper stories. Vacant dwellings are quite rare at present, and in active demand.

TRADES, COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Before the present stagnation in oil set in, six or seven refineries turned out over 300,000 barrels per annum of illuminating, and about 50,000 barrels of lubricating oil. Within the last six months, however, the production was reduced to nearly one-third. A large barrel factory and several cooper shops finish about 500 tight barrels per day for the local and Cincinnati and the Pittsburgh markets. The chemical laboratory manufactures the crude fluids for refining of oil. Three substantial foundaries and machine shops employ an aggregate of about sixty hands, and the round house and repair shops of the Railroad company about seventy-five hands. Two large merchant flouring mills produce a first class superior article, and three first class steam sawmills are constantly engaged in manufacturing lumber of every description. What for one of these is connected an extensive door, blind, sash, scroll work and rough furniture factory. Going to large establishments, there is a ship yard, for the construction of steamboats, barges, etc. Among the other industries employing timber as raw material, may be mentioned a smaller furniture factory, a carriage factory and several wagon shops, and an ax-handle factory. One steam tannery finishes about 5,500 hides per annum, using tan bark at $6 to $7 per cord. Three chewing tobacco factories and several cigar shops turn out large quantities for local consumption and shipment abroad. Bricks in brickyards and tiles in tilehall in this section. Only at Bullitown, Braxton county, salt was boiled for the use of the surrounding country, remote from other sources of supply.

PETROLEUM.

This product, up to this time, is only found in a belt of upheaved or dislocated territory, commonly styled "the Break," from one to two miles wide, and extending in a direction north by east over a distance of 30 miles, from the Little Kanawha river at the mouth of Burning Springs river, to the mouth of Reeny creek on the Ohio river, a few miles below the town of St. Mary, and through the counties of Wirt, Wood, Ritchie, and Pleasants. It embraces the famous oil districts of production: Rathbone's, Burning Springs, Oil Rock, Standing Stone and Cairo, all of which are tributary to the Little Kanawha river and dependent upon it for transportation to markets. At several of these points a number of wells were formerly developed, flowing or pumping 50 to 200 barrels per day for many months in succession. Notwithstanding these encouraging yields, but a comparatively small portion of the belt has been thoroughly tested, even as to the first, to the water level, transportation, now obviated by the lock and dam improvements, is very near at hand, and the falling off in price and demand. Under more favorable circumstances, the development of oil will assume unprecedented proportions, especially since a scientific mapping of the "Break" has facilitated the location of progressive wells. There is no degree of certainty not attainable in the oil regions of Pennsylvania.

The depth of wells in this section varies from 500 to 1,000 feet, the gravity diminishing with the increase of depth. The number of wells worked at Burning Springs has varied from 20 to 30, and the production from 100 to 100,000 barrels per annum. The site of this vicinity are of a light grade, varying from 40 to 50 degrees Baumé, and are preferred by refiners to the best Pennsylvania oil. Transportation to Parkersburg in bulk boats costs one cent per gallon, and in barrels, same cost and 50 cents per barrel, which is now to be added $1 50 per barrel for coal for each locality from the wells most distant from the river, oil is conveyed to the boats by metal pipes for a reasonable rate of 50 cents per gallon and over rattle. The price of genuine oil land within the belt, and surrounded by productive wells, ranges from $2,000 to $5,000 per acre, but as small acres, but as small tracts of from 5 to 10 acres, operators preferring to lease at a bonus of $500 to $1,000 per acre, and a royalty of one-eighth to one-third of the production.

IRON.

All along the Little Kanawha valley, forruginous shales and other indications of iron are prominent features of the country. Good specimens of ore are found in the counties of Braxton, Gilmore, Calhoun, and Wirt. Nowhere is lar or kidney ore is met with in small beds, and in close proximity to coal and lime as for north of the Ohio river, but in the vicinity of the Hughes river and Leading creek. A very rich bank of iron ore crops out for several miles on the Ohio river hills below Parkersburg.

ARTICLES OF PROFITABLE MANUFACTURE.

From what precedes it is fair to assume that Parkersburg and the accessible portions of the little Kanawha valley are essentially adapted to the profitable manufacturing of all articles of trade into which wood enters as a principal ingredient, especially agricultural implements, such as wheat fans, horse powers, mowers and reapers, plows and all smaller tools of the farm. Then carriages, carts, wagons, drays, wagons, railroad cars, trucks. Furniture, plain, painted and carved. Doors and sashes, scroll and turned work, pails, buckets, tubs, barrels, staves, beer, and wine casks shingles, matches, musical instruments, toys, fancy goods, sewing machines, and last, but not least, steamboats, flatboats, barges, skiffs, and yawls.

Countless other articles would undoubtedly be manufactured here with more advantage than at all other points in adjoining States

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 30, 1874.

Inquiry among the bankers to-day elicits nothing of consequence worthy of note. All complain of the dullness of business incident to holiday times, but hope for an improvement in the near future, after the January settlements have been made. While we agree with them in the hope that such will be the case, we see no good reasons on which to found an opinion that there will be any material change for the better.

Holders of money are too cautious to risk their funds in new ventures, and the prospect of profitable returns is too slim to warrant any one in going out of the beaten path. It looks very much as if business would be reorganized on a new basis entirely, and that the return to ante-panic ways would not come; if on this new basis is raised a more substantial, though more modest building than the inflated, balloon-like structure that collapsed fifteen months since, then will the result be one not to be deplored. If the exceptional economies that are now being practised become the fixed habit of our people, then will the solid increase of wealth be greater during this decade than if the panic had not come.

—The *Financier* remarks of the new Currency bill that the troublesome question of the status of the retired legal tenders was put aside and not likely to ever become a practical one and not worth troubling about until it does, and adds:

Successive attempts to amend by allowing a part of customs duties to be paid in paper, to require the discontinuance of notes as fast as redeemed, and to fix an earlier date of resumption, were voted down, and the bill, which its author pronounced "a sort of Christmas gift to the people," went through. In the House it has to encounter more diverse and less harmonious elements, including the attempts of Mr. Kelley to fasten his 3.65 craze to it, and its passage in the present form must be regarded as very doubtful, as well as undesirable. If the bill were made an honest and unambiguous one, we should gladly accept it as rather better than none and as a compromise necessary under the circumstances; but as it now stands it is a piece of jugglery.

—The Paris Mint has commenced coining a sum of 40,000,000 francs in twenty franc pieces for the Bank of France. The new coin will be employed to facilitate the withdrawal from circulation of the notes of the same amount. The circulation of twenty franc notes, which at one time reached 670,000,000, has already been reduced to 360,000,000.

—The New York *Times* furnishes the following list of banks whose notes have been counterfeited:

Of the $20 notes, a large number of excellent counterfeits are in circulation, as follows:

The Oneida National Bank of Utica.
The National Shoe and Leather bank of the city of New York.
The Merchants' National bank of the city of New York.
The Fourth National bank of Philadelphia.
The Market National bank of New York.
The Fourth National bank of the city of New York.
The City National bank of Utica.
The National bank of Commerce in New York.
The Tradesmen's National bank of the City of New York.
The First National bank of Indianapolis.
The First National bank of Portland.
Also, $5 notes on the Merchants' National bank of Concord, altered to $20 notes.
Counterfeit $10 notes of the following banks are in circulation:
The Farmers' and Manufacturers' National bank of Poughkeepsie.
The Central National bank of Rome.
The American National bank of New York.
The First National bank of Rochester.
The Third National bank of Philadelphia.
The Marine National bank of New York.
The First National bank of Lockport.
The Mutual National bank of Troy.
The Union National bank of New York.
The Auburn City National bank.
The First National bank of Philadelphia.
The Market National bank of New York.
The City National bank of Pouchkeepsie.
The National Bank of the State of New York.
The First National bank of Poughkeepsie.
The Saratoga National bank of Waterford.
The Albany City bank.
The Merchants' National bank of Chicago.
The First National bank of Rock Island.
The Highland National bank of Newburg.
The Traders' National bank of Syracuse.
If the $2 counterfeits are in circulation those of the following banks:
The Westchester County National bank.
The Marine National bank of New York.
The Ninth National bank of the city of New York.
The Market National bank of New York.
The National Union bank of Linderpark.
The Nassau National bank of New York.
The National bank of Rhode Island, of Newport.
The National Union bank of Kinderhook.

The officers of the Bureau of Engraving hold that the only way to prevent counterfeiting of the country from the numerous counterfeits on national bank notes now in circulation, is to surrender the use of plates in contemplation for several years. A new issue in exchange for the, old would render the plates now in the hands of the counterfeiters worthless, and the new notes would be designed with a view of defeating the difficulties of the counterfeiters in their attempts to imitate them.

—The following table shows the price of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Banking Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 30, 1874.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	111½	111½	111½	111½	111½	111½
Money	3	3	3	3	3	3
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup.	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½
5-20's, 1865	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½
5-20's, 1867	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
5-20's, 1865, new	118¼	118¼	118¼	118¼	118¼	118¼
5-20's, 1868	120½	120½	120½	120½	120½	120½
5-20's, 1867, coup.	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½
5-20's, 1867, new	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½	122½
5-20's, 1868	121¾	121¾	121¾	121¾	121¾	121¾
10-40's, coupons	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½	114½
Currency 6's	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
New 5 per cents	113½	113½	113½	113½	113½	113½
Pacific Mail	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½
Quicksilver	28¼	28¼	28¼	28¼	28¼	28¼
Pacific Mail, old	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½
Panama	118	118	118	118	118	118
Adams Express	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½
Wells, Fargo & Co.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
American Express	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½	62½
United States Exp.	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½
New York Central	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Erie	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Michigan Central	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Michigan Southern	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½
Illinois Central	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
Cleveland & Pittsburg	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Chicago & Northw'n	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½
Do. preferred	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½	61½
Rock Island	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
St. Paul, common	37½	37½	37½	38½	38½	38½
Do preferred	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½	68½
Wabash, common	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½
Fort Wayne	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Ohio & Mississippi	31½	31½	31½	31½	31½	31½
Union Pacific	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Harlem	128	128	128	128	128	128
Hudson River	128½	128½	128½	128½	128½	128½
Iron Mountain	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
C., C. & I. R.	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
Tennessee, 6's	77½	77½	77½	77½	77½	77½
Missouri 6's	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
South Carolina, July	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½	29½
Mississippi 6's	70½	70½	70½	70½	70½	70½

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	52¾	
Pennsylvania Central scrip, sales	105¾	
Reading, sales	43¾	
United Companies of N. J., sales	127½	
Oil Creek	28½	
Lehigh Valley, sales ex. div	60¾	
Allegheny Valley	92	93½
Central Transportation	43¾	44
Empire Transportation	55	
P. C. & St. L. mortgage bonds, 7's	74½	
Gold	111¾	

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, December 30, 1874.

There is not much change to report in commercial affairs at present. Merchants and others are generally engaged in preparing to accounts of stock and making annual settlements, and the usual lull of the holiday season in the wholesale trade coming upon an already apathetic market, has contributed to an extreme quiet in business affairs. This has not caused much uneasiness among merchants, as it was expected generally, and the usual belief is that after a few weeks there will be a marked improvement, which, when the troubles in the iron business are over, will grow into undoubted activity.

There is not much to note in movements of prices. Oats, after having drooped and declined during the early part of the week, came stronger to-day, and holders were firm at 66c, while other grains were unchanged. In produce and groceries there is a limited movement, at prices not materially altered from former quotations. Provisions continue to tend downward, and by easy gradations. We hope to see prices more suited to the hard times, which are so generally felt by the consumers of hog products.

In dry goods, boots and shoes and cognate branches of the jobbing trade here, business has been rather light but prices steady. In fact in the dry goods line the downward movement of prices during November and early December carried prices so low that further reductions are hardly to be expected. The New York *Bulletin* estimates the falling off of the trade in boots and shoes for 1874 at twenty per cent. of the average of previous years, with the naturally expected reduction.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce, by rail and river, since our last, are as follows:

Flour, bbls	1,181	Apples, bbls	33
Corn, sks	240	Potatoes, sks	1,300
Barley, sks	374	Rye, sks	30
Oats, sks	4,600	Wool, pkgs	10
Bacon, pcs	443	Bacon, lbs	218
Hay, bales	308		

The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce during the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.
Flour, bbls	13,233	18,956
Apples, bbls	1,883	2,931
Cheese, lbs	1,057	1,986
Corn, sks	5,227	4,494
Wheat, sks	7,631	4,986
Barley, sks	6,097	4,371
Rye, sks	1,329	811
Oats, sks	30,139	30,639
Butter, pkgs	335	632
Bacon, pcs	2,252	8,771
Bacon, lbs	28,000	810
Potatoes, bush	6,129	8,431
Hay, bales	2,787	5,048

The following quotations are prices realized on wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are for cash.

GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED.

GRAIN—The receipts this week are considerably lighter, the total being 35,332 bushels, against 54,397 the preceding week. The unarrived are light. Wheat and corn are steady and unchanged, and oats having been weak on Monday and Tuesday, were held firmly at the Corn Exchange this morning, when 66c was asked. The visible supply of grain at all points, on December 19th, showed a large increase on wheat, both as compared with the previous week and the same time last year, the total had increased to 4,421,664 bushels in the week, but was nearly 1,500,000 bushels short of the amounts warehoused last year at this time, while oats were slightly increased over the previous year's figures and decreased in the week preceding.

Wheat—The market is quiet at about previous quotations. The receipts are 10,215 bushels, against 8,85 bushels the preceding week. Most of these receipts consists of choice white and amber Kentucky wheat shipped direct to millers here, by river to Bellaire, and thence by rail about 40,000 bushels of this wheat is to arrive here during the next month at a prime cost of $1 25@1 28 per bushel. We quote choice Kentucky white wheat at $1 30@1 35 per bushel; extra Michigan white at $1 35@1 37; Ohio and Illinois ditto $1 20@1 25; and red and amber Kentucky wheat at $1 10@1 18.

Corn—The market continues quiet, and the disinclination of buyers to operate, although no advance has been made since last week, is still noticeable. The receipts are decreased, being 10,755 bushels during the week past, against 13,067 bushels the preceding week. We note sales of shelled at 77@78c per bushel, and quote these figures for high mixed; low mixed 75@76c. Ear is in light demand, and is nominal at 72@73c, with car corn on the wharf selling about at lower.

Oats—The market was very weak, yesterday, and sales were made at 63@65c per bushel for high mixed, with a weak feeling even at these quotations. On Change to-day, however, holders were firmer, and 66c was asked, which seemed to stop transactions; 62½@63½ being offered. The market is quotable at 63@66c per bushel for white; 61@62c for mixed. There is not a very large stock of oats in first hands, and receipts have fallen to 21,927 bushels during the past week, against 32,847 the preceding week.

Barley—The market continues dull, and transactions were very light. Nearly all the barley that comes to this market is bought elsewhere by Pittsburgh brewers, and so far as transactions here are concerned, quotations are almost nominal, as follows: $1 25@1 30 per bushel for No. 2 fall, $1 35@1 40 for No. 2 do; $1 50@1 60 for No. 1 do; spring barley is quoted at $1 30@1 50 per bushel. Receipts are 10,022 bushels during the past week, against 16,617 bushels for the previous week.

Rye—There has been rather light receipts of rye during the past week, amounting to 2,028 bushels. The market is easy at $1 05@1 10 per bushel.

SALES—The sales reported on 'Change and those of a private character, to-day, were very light. They include the following:

1 car shelled corn, in sks.....78½c
1 car shelled corn, in sks.....77½c
1 car white oats.....63½c
1 car white oats.....65½c

Flour—There is a sharp decrease in the receipts, which are 5,723 bbls during the past week, against 13,233 bbls the preceding week. This is a very unfavorable showing, and as given for January indicate that a better trade is anticipated. The following are the wholesale prices of the leading brands: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 25@8 bbl; No. 1 amber wheat do $6 50; No. 1 red wheat do $6 50@7 bbl. The jobbing prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $8 00@8 25; choice brands of Minnesota $7 75@8 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 00; choice brands of Ohio $6 75; self-raising flour $6 75; graham flour $5 25; self-raising flour 6 lb packages, $6 25 @ doz packages; corn meal, old $3 75; new $3 00@3 50; out meal $7 75@8 00.

Hay—Receipts for two weeks are 5,036 bales. The trade is slow, and confined to immediate wants. We quote choice timothy on tracks at $23 00@24 00 per ton; No. 2 do $20 00@21 00; fine timothy $19 00@20 00. Good hay from store is quoted at $21 00@23 00. Loose hay is selling at $20 00@22 00 for No. 1; $15 00@17 00 for No. 2, and $12 50@13 00 for mixed per ton.

Mill Feed—Bran is steady at $1 05@1 10 per cwt; shorts at $1 25@1 35 per cwt; middlings $1 50@1 60 per cwt; chopped feed $1 35@1 65 per cwt; oil meal $1 40@1 45 per cwt. We note the sale of 1 car shorts at $1 20.

GROCERIES.

There is no indication of any particular improvement in the grocery trade, at present, and the transactions are confined to small orders, given on the hand-to-mouth policy. Coffees are a shade firmer, while sugars are weak, and on round lots quotations might be shaded somewhat. Prices are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb	*Spices.*	
Fancy	23½c	Cloves, ₱ lb	55 c
Choice	22½c	Allspice, ₱ lb	17½@18½c
Prime	22 c	Cassia, ₱ lb	40 @45 c
Good	21½c	Nutmegs, ₱ lb	1 25@1 40
Java	33 c	Pepper, ₱ lb	27 @28 c
Roasted Coffees.		*Molasses.*	
Rio, in papers	26 c	Strictly ch'ce N O	75c
Rio, in bulk	25½c	Prime	70c
Java	37 c	Good	66c
Sugars.		*Syrups.*	
Standard A	10½c	Ex. white drips	75c
Standard B	10½c	Choice do	70c
Standard extra C	10½c	Lower grades	45@60c
Standard harvest	10½c	*Sundries.*	
Franklin extra C	9½c	Layers, ₱ lb	$3 40
American extra C	9½c	Valentia, ₱ lb	11½c
New Orleans	8½@9½c	Currants, ₱ lb	8½c
Teas.		Prunes	13 @15½
Young Hyson	30c@41	*Starch.*	
Gunpowder	41 @ 55	Commercial	5 c
Imperial	50c@ 1 00	Silver gloss	9½c
Japan	41 @ 55	Pearl	10½c
Oolong	35c@ 85	*Soda.*	
Fancy	1 00	Bi-carb, ₱ 100 ₱ kgs	6c
Caddies	25c@ 1 00	Bi-carb, ₱ ₱ papers	8c
Rice.		*Candles.*	
Choice Carolina	9½c	Star, full weight	18c
Patna	7½@8c	Stearine	15c
Rangoon	7½c		

CANNED GOODS—The market continues rather quiet and prices are quotably unchanged, as follows:

Fruits in Syrups.		2 lbs Falm'th corn.	2 52
2½ lbs California		3 lbs golden pump-	
apricots, ₱ doz	$4 75	kin	2 25
2 lbs blackberries	1 75	2 lbs green peas	1 75
2 lbs blueberries	2 25	2 lbs small peas	2 25
2 lbs damsons	1 75	2 lbs mammoth sweet corn	
2 lbs peaches	2 50		
3 lbs peaches	3 50	2 lbs tomatoes	1 40
2 lbs peaches, extra	3 75	3 lbs do	2 00
2 lbs Cal. Bartlett		*Salmon, &c.*	
pears	3 75	1 lb California, sal-	
2 lbs Bartlett pears	2 50	mon	2 50
2 lbs pears	2 00	2 lbs do do	3 25
2 lbs plum apples	2 00	1 lb do do	4 00
2 lbs raspberries	2 50	1 lb spiced salmon	3 25
2 lbs strawberries	2 50	2 lbs do do	6 00
2 lbs white cherries	2 50	1 lb cove oysters,	
2 lbs red cherries	2 00	full	1 15
2 lbs egg plums	2 00	2 lbs do do	2 00
2 lbs gooseberries	1 75	1 lb do flight	85
2 lbs green gages	2 72	2 lbs do do	1 65
Vegetables.		1 lb spiced oysters,	
3 lbs asparagus	4 00	1 lunch	1 50
3 lbs Lima beans	2 25	2 lbs do do	2 25
2 lbs string beans	1 50	1 lb clams	2 25
2 lbs Winslow's		2 lbs do	3 25
green corn	2 60	2 lbs do do	3 15
2 lbs Yarm'th corn	2 60	2 lbs do	
2 lbs Baltim'n reserv	2 00		

FRUIT—Fruit is in fair demand at prices generally unchanged. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess ..... Large do, ₱ 100.. $6 50
Mackerel, ₱ bbl..$25 00 Dried codfish, ₱ lb.. 8
No. 1 mess do..... 23 00 Herring, ₱ box.. 8
Extra No. 1 shore.. 20 00 White fish, ₱ half
Extra No. 1 bay..... 15 00 bbl..... 6 50
No. 1 bay..... 14 00 Lake herring, ₱
No. 2 do..... 12 00 half bbl..... 4 25
No. 2 bay..... 12 00 Labrador herring
New No. 3..... 11 00 ₱ half bbl..... 3 75@4 00
Georges codfish, medium..... 6 00 Round do..... 6 75@7 00

TOBACCO—The market is firm, and prices are strong. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll ..... 57½c Rough & Ready..... 55@58c
Black Navy..... 52@55c Fine Cut Plugs..... 70@80c
Black Twist..... 52@55c Fine Cut Chews..... 70@80c
Black Quarters..... 54@57c Cut and Dry..... 30@40c
Louisville Navy..... 55@60c Scotch Snuff..... 65@70c
Louisville Cav..... 65@70c Black Snuff..... 60@65c
Virginia Navy..... 55@60c Six Twist..... @40c
Virginia Fine..... 65@80c Cigars—
Virginia Cav..... 56@61c Penn'a Seed..... $13@20
Pounds Thick..... 40@45c Connecticut Seed..... 25@30
Twisters..... 40@45c Sweet & Havana..... 28@45
Bright Pounds..... 60@ $1 Havana ..... 90@$15

CANDLES AND OILS—The market is steady. We quote 11@12c from store; sales of round lots on the cars are made at a reduction from these figures.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

APPLES—There is no improvement in the demand, which is quite moderate, and receipts and prices are barely maintained. Transactions are almost entirely in a jobbing way. Extra choice are quoted at $2 50 @ $3 bbl; $2 @$2 25 for choice; $1 25@1 75 for common to good. In large lots prices would be shaded. Receipts for the past two weeks are 2,931 bbls.

BUTTER—The supply is large and somewhat beyond the requirements of the demand. The market is quotable at 35@36c per lb for fine print or roll.

BRANS—There is no particular change to note in the demand, which is quite moderate and dull. We quote prime white navy at $2 00@2 25; medium $1 80@1 90; fair to good $1 50@1 70. There is a large stock in first hands and the market is weak.

BEESWAX—The demand continues light, the high prices and the stringent times having cooperated to curtail consumption to an almost unknown degree. We quote at 30@32c for choice; 26@28c for medium 12@15c for common.

BEESWAX—Prime yellow beeswax is quoted at 31@33c ₱ lb, in round lots; sales in a jobbing way are made at 32@35c ₱ lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Buckwheat flour is rather easy, and in large supply at $2 50 ₱ cwt; $7 00 ₱ bbl; selling in a jobbing way. Buckwheat flour is active, and a good jobbing trade is done; we quote in 6 ₱ packages at $2 20 ₱ doz packages.

CHEESE—There is little change in the market for cheese, except that there is very little doing at present. The interest manifest in the demand is looked for until after the holidays, when dealers hope for better trade and better prices. We quote as follows: New York factory: New York Goshen 17½@18c; Sweitzer 18@19c ₱ lb. Receipts 1,986 lbs for the past two weeks.

EGGS—The market is comparatively steady. We quote at 30@32c per dozen for strictly fresh in barrels; 29@30c in cases; pickled 26@28c. Receipts are liberal, being 95 pkgs yesterday.

CRANBERRIES—Are quoted as $6 00@9 00 for Western; $10 00@12 00 for Eastern; $14 00 ₱ barrel for Sackett's.

GAME—The market continues to be a very large stock, which, being in excess of the demand, has caused prices to rule very low point. We quote as follows: Venison — saddles 8@12c. ₱ lb; whole deer 10@12c; prairie chickens $3 ₱ doz; quail $1 25@1 50 ₱ doz; wild duck $1 75@2 ₱ pair; squirrels 20@22c ₱ pair; wild turkeys $1 25@1 50 each.

HOMINY—The market rules at $1 75@3 00 ₱ barrel.

FEATHERS—Are quoted as follows: No. 1, ₱ lb, 65@70c for round lots; 72@75c in a jobbing way; mixed 50@55c; mixed duck 30@35c.

MINCE MEAT—Is quoted at 10c ₱ lb in a jobbing way.

PROVISIONS.

The market is easy, at prices not quotably changed, but some of the quotations for hogs are increased, being 11,018 pcs and 819 tcs for the past two weeks. We quote as follows:

BACON—Sales of sugar cured hams are somewhat lower. We quote shoulders at 10c; hams 13½@13½c; clear rib sides 14c; clear sides 14½c.

HAMS—There is a fair supply, and prices are easier. We quote plain sugar cured at 14½c ₱ lb. Sugar-cured shoulders at 11c ₱ lb; breakfast bacon is quoted at 14@14½c; dried beef 14½ @15c; beef tongues, 1 ₱ bbl, $2 50.

MESS PORK—The market is strong and prices are easier. We quote at $20 50@21 00 ₱ bbl.

LARD—There is a fairamount of lard coming in and the market is steady. We quote prime kettle rendered, in tierces, ₱ lb, 14½c; half bbls do 15c; buckets, do 15½c; in 3-lb caddies, do 17½c; in 5-lb caddies do, 17c; in 3-lb pails, do 17½c; in 5-lb pails, do 17½c; in 6-lb do, 16c.

LARD OIL—There is rather a slack inquiry for lard oil, and we quote extra No. 1 winter strained at $1 07@1 10 ₱ gallon.

TALLOW—Sales at 6@6c ₱ lb for choice, and 7@7½c for medium.

DRIED HOGS—The supply is fair, and prices are tending downward. We quote at 8@8½c ₱ lb.

ONIONS—The market remains quiet and unchanged, with light receipts and a slow demand. We quote at $3 40@3 50 for red; $3 90@4 00 for yellow.

POTATOES—Receipts are decreased this week, being 2,312 bushels, against 6,129 for the previous week. There is no change in prices and little demand, which continues steady at about previous figures, but little doing in a jobbing way from store is transacted. We quote at 90@95c ₱ bushel for prime peachblows, from store; medium grades 80@85c.

POULTRY—Trade is somewhat better, the stock is light, and prices are somewhat improved. We quote jobbing prices as follows: Dressed—chickens 11@12c ₱ lb; turkeys and ducks 12@13c; geese 10@11c.

PRESERVES AND DRIED FRUIT—We quote dried apples at 5@6c ₱ lb; dried blackberries 10c ₱ lb; dried peaches quoted at 8@9c ₱ lb for choice halves. Apple butter is quoted at 55@60c ₱ gallon; Honey is active and firm at 30@35c ₱ lb for clover; 25@30c for buckwheat. Medium pickles are quoted at $6 00 ₱ bbl; $3 00 ₱ half bbl.

VINEGAR—The market is dull, and there are few sales. We quote in a jobbing way at 13@ 15c ₱ gallon for pure cider; 10@12c.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ALES—The market is very dull, and there is much complaint on the part of brewers, both as to the decreased consumption and virtually no consumption. We quote X $9 00 ₱ barrel; XX $10 00 ₱ barrel; India pale $11 00 ₱ barrel. Base English ale, in kilderkins of 22 gallons, $24 00@ 25 00; barrels, 41 gallons, $40 00@41 00; hhds, 88 gallons, $62 50@65 00; in cases, 4 dozen bottles, $20 75. William Younger's India pale ale, in cases of eight dozen bottles, $72 50@3 00 ₱ doz. Robert Younger's sparkling ale, $2 75@3 00 ₱ dozen; Guinness' stouts, bottled by A. Burke, $2 75@3 00 ₱ dozen; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 75 ₱ dozen; Caswell, Hazard & Co.'s ginger ale $1 75 ₱ dozen.

ANTHRACITE AND HOUSEWINES—The market is quiet. We quote alcohol at $2 12@2 25 ₱ gall. Highwines are steady at $1 08@1 09 ₱ gall.

BRANDIES—The demand is very dull, and so little is doing that quotations are virtually nominal. We quote: Cognac, $4 00@4 50 ₱ gal. for high test; common $3 00@3 25; black lead $5 00; arsenic $5 00; potash $5 50; pearl ash $5 00; nitrate of soda $3 50@3 75.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Sales as follows: ½ ₱ cans $1 50 ₱ doz; 1 ₱ cans $2 00; 1 ₱ cans $3 50; 5 ₱ cans $20. We; 10 ₱ boxes 40c ₱ lb. Market steady and demand good.

COAL—Trade continues dull, and prices are unchanged at $2 50@2 75 ₱ ton, delivered free on cars in Pittsburgh.

CEMENT—Louisville hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25 ₱ bbl; Phœnix hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25 ₱ bbl; Rosedale cement $2 50@3 00; Youghiogheny $1 70@2 00; Portland cement $7 50@8 00. White Lime—Sandusky $1 60@1 75 ₱ bbl.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Quotations are given at $7 50@8 00 for best quality; second quality $7 50 per 72 lbs.

HAY—We quote Kentucky rough as $100 00 @116 00 ₱ ton; double dressed 12½@13c ₱ lb.

PAPERS—Paling papers 6@8c ₱ lb, as to quality; manilla 7@12c; hardware papers 6@12c; bag wrapping 4½@4½c; felt papers, 6@12c, straw boards 7@12c; rag news 12½@15c; book papers 9 @10c ₱ lb.

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH—Salesmade at $6 00 ₱ gross.

RAGS—Cotton at 2½@3c ₱ lb, and woolen at 3@5c.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 3 dozen, $6 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—Car lots, ₱ bbl, $1 60; jobbing lots $1 80 @1 85.

STAVES AND COOPERAGE—The market is steady. Staves matched, with heading are quoted at $30 00 ₱ thousand; city made barrels are quoted at $1 60@1 65; oil casks $1 25@1 35; kegs, 5 gallon, $1 00 10 gallon, $1 25; half barrels $1 50.

TENT WORK—Bent rims, 1½ to 1¾ inch, F set, 8½ 2½ inch, 4 to 1¼ inch $1 50; 1¾ inch, $1 85; 1¾ inch, $2 00; 2 inch, $2 75; 2¼ inch, $3 00. Loose—A hickory 1 to 2 inch, ₱ set $3 00; 2½ inch, $4 50; 3 inch, $5 00. Oak, 1 to 2 inch, $3 75@4 00. Oak, AXX 2¼ inch and under, ₱ set, $5 50; 1½ to 3 inch, $4 50; 3¼ to 3½ inch, $5 50. Shafts, unfinished, ₱ $10 00 ₱ dozen pair; finished, $10 50 @12 00. Poles, unfinished, $3 00@3 50 ₱ dozen; finished, $15 00@21 00.

WILLOWS—We quote choice at 1¼c ₱ lb; large 10c; two-years' growth 8@9c.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 31, 1874.

The market continues firm, and the prospect of receiving a large shipment of crude by river is good. This makes oil for river shipment active and firm at Parkers, while other lines are easier in prices. Refined is firm, and a sharp advance is noted in the East, which has a beneficial effect on prices here.

CRUDE.

We quote United at wells 72½@72¾c; Karns do 69c; Reliefdo 69¾c; immediate shipment on cars 92½@93c; do on barges 97½@98½c. Sales of 25,500 barrels are reported from Parkers.

REFINED.

The New York and Philadelphia markets show an advance of fully 15c on previous quotations. The market here is strong, with an advancing tendency. We quote at 95@ 95¼c for standard white on the cars.

New York—Refined is quoted at 113½@11¾c, with sales of 6,000 barrels reported.

Philadelphia—Spot refined rules at 113½@ 11¾c.

OIL BARRELS.

The market is steady but unchanged. We quote at $1 35 for city made; $1 20@1 25 for country do.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—The *Courier* says: The market closed quiet and steady. Sales:

2,100 bbls, upper road, Pennsylvania.....95 c
2,000 bbls, upper road, Titusville.....95 c
500 bbls, upper road, Titusville.....95 c
500 bbls, lower road, Titusville.....97 c
2,000 bbls, Oil City, spot.....97½c
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot.....99 c
4,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells.....99c
5,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells.....99½c
6,000 bbls, Parkers, United, at wells.....99¾c
outside lines.....

NEW YORK, December 30, closing 28.—Higher prices are quotable, with an increased export demand. Offering of bulk Lima crude at 28½c; at 95c; refined, 115c asked, and 113c bid; sales 1,000 bbls at 113c, and 5,000 bbls at 113½c; case 103@107c; naptha 10c. For Philadelphia delivery, the market is quiet, with refined quoted at 113½@114c.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—Market steady at 95c.

OIL CITY, December 30.—Market dull at 92¾ @95c.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 30.—Market quiet and firm; held at 80@85c.

ROUSEVILLE, December 30.—Market quiet but firm at 90@95c.

TIDIOUTE, December 30.—Market steady at 85@92½c at wells.

PARKERS, December 30.—Market quiet: United at wells 72½@73½c; immediate shipment 92½@ 95c; for shipment on barges 97½@98½c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Market firm and advancing. S. W. 113@113½c; crude 95c; in bulk; 8½c in barrels; cases 10¾c; futures 113¾c bid for January delivery.

Coal for the South.

The big rise in our rivers has made things lively on the landing. The river yesterday was too high for coalboat purposes, but not too high to get coal. The rise has set boats afloat, setting things into shape, and as soon as the water falls a fleet of several millions of bushels of coal will be found "going down the Ohio," not floating down, as in old times. The run of coal will be larger now than ever, and will be found the boats named below; also a number of others, including the Grand Lake The John Hanna, Mary Savage and J. B. Bigley will take out 18 coalboats and 4 barges. They will be met by the Joseph H. Bigley, which will tow the coalboats and barges to New Orleans. The Simpson Horner will tow from Louisville 17 barges for New Orleans, containing 385,000 bushels. The D. D. Wood will arrive to-morrow and will take out a big tow for New Orleans.

FOR LOUISVILLE.

Towboats.	Coalboats.	Barges, &c.	Bushels.
Fearless	7	1	140,000
Mary Ann	7	2	160,000
Elk	10	1	200,000
Maggie Smith	5		125,000
Acorn	6		120,000
Stella	6	10	130,000
J. Walton	6		120,000
Bengal Tiger	4		80,000
Col. Ford	6	6	130,000
No. 2 bay	12	4	440,000
New No. 3	11		220,000
J. J. Bigely, No. 2	18	4	440,000
Total	95	29	1,855,000

FOR NEW ORLEANS.

Towboats.	Coalboats.	Barges, &c.	Bushels.
Oakland	15	7	574,000
Simpson Horner	19	2	240,000
Total	35	6	611,000

The Past Year's Business.

From a review of the last year's business, in the *Commercial* of this morning, of December 30, we extract the following: In the beginning of the year the effects of the boss failures and resulting panic in the fall of 1873 were still felt. Distrust continued, and many houses were under suspension, some of which went forward afterward. These things, with the general depreciation of values, made the first six months of the year generally unprofitable to our merchants. The second part of the year, however, which is now closing, has materially yielded profitable returns. The footings of sales-books may show a diminished aggregate in many cases, but the profits will, on tracking, much reduced being borne in mind, it will be evident that a quantity gone into actual consumption during the past six months has been a fair average. In some lines prices are down to *panic-bottom* rates, and this must make the amount of sales compare more favorably than the quantity actually sold. There can be no doubt that the tendency of trade is much more general than customary. This will, to some extent, account for the difficulty in getting money. It is not required to the same extent for the payment of business obligations. It is also a fact that during the past year economy has been practiced to an unusual extent. So much has this been the case, that probably not less than four hundred millions of dollars will be input down as economized during the year. Take, then, the receipts, sales, profits, reduction of indebtedness, the amount economized, and add to these considerations the fact of good crops for the year, and the conclusion is that the year —the country throughout is in a sound condition. The view of this, it cannot be wrong to anticipate a successful business year, both for 1875. As the prospect for the resumption of specie payments draws near, prudent merchants will begin at once to calculate values and profits by a specie standard, thus meeting the change with precision. Therefore, gold and our currency become equalized, the transition will hardly create a ripple on the surface of business. With the resumption of the financial question, we can see little in the future which would interfere with the prospects for business being good; and, as we have stated, we can see little danger from that quarter. The experience of the past will no doubt teach merchants the wisdom of avoiding outside operations and over-trading for the future, from which causes many failures have occurred. The expense, however, of doing business in any of our large cities is much too great.

The failure in 1874 will aggregate about the same in number as those of 1873, but in this will be included many which more legitimately belong to 1873, being houses which

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1875.

IT IS a suggestive and encouraging fact that Philadelphia's four immense elevators are hardly enough to accommodate the steadily increasing grain trade of that port.

SO IT goes. All the late strikers at the Troy Iron Works of JOHN A. GRISWOLD & Co., except the puddlers, have yielded, and it is said that the question with the latter is likely to be settled speedily in favor of the company.

THERE were one hundred and nineteen vessels in port at Philadelphia, on Saturday, loading and unloading. The petroleum exports from that port to foreign ports since January 1, amount to an aggregate of 72,066,339 gallons.

ACCORDING to the Cincinnati *Price Current*, the hog crop of 1874 is the largest ever gathered in this country. It gives the total packing up to December 25, at 5,466,200, against 5,410,314 in 1873, and 4,831,558 in 1872. Why, then, are the current prices for the product so high?

A WESTERN Democratic paper says the most notable phenomenon observable in the proceedings of Congress, this session, is "the increased aggressiveness of the Democratic minority." Just so. When the earth grows warm, the snakes crawl forth from their winter dens.

NOT the least among the business signs of the times is the fact that railroad bonds are in comparatively good demand, and that prices, especially of the older issues, are well maintained. After the disbursement of the January dividends, when a large amount of surplus capital will be thrown on the market, it is believed that investors will more largely seek this class of securities.

EVIDENCES of the prosperity of the West continue to accumulate. Money is active at low rates in Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis, trade collections are easy and loans are paid promptly, loan agents report that there has rarely been greater alacrity to meet interest, while the payments on principal are large and scarcely any extensions of time are being asked for. All branches of trade, except iron and a few specially depressed industries, are active, and hardly anybody would know that there was so terrible a panic last fall.

THE workmen at the Troy Bessemer steel works, who recently accepted the reduction of about twenty per cent. in wages and went to work, have reason to congratulate themselves. Since the resumption of work the product of steel has been increased twenty-five per cent. over that of the previous working season, and, as a result, the workmen's wages are advanced about five per cent. more than even before the reduction. There is an argument in this fact which ought to be convincing to disaffected iron workers in other places than Troy.

THE outlook in England for the iron interests of that country after the New Year, is considered by its trade journals to be a hopeful one, and some of the Sheffield iron-masters go so far as to predict a "great revival." Prices are already on the advance. A quantity that was sold by auction there on the 10th instant, realized fully five dollars per ton more than most merchants and manufacturers anticipated. Norwegian and Swedish iron of next year's make, to be delivered at Sheffield next summer, is also being quoted at fully ten dollars a ton dearer than it could be obtained a few months since. The iron industries of our own country will, it is to be hoped, catch the influence of this newly awakening activity, in due season.

THE advance synopsis of the Monthly Report of the Bureau of Statistics, which gives the returns of our foreign trade for the month ending September 30, and for the nine months ended the same, shows that, allowing for the difference in the warehouse account, the total imports for the nine months closing as above stated, exceeded the total domestic and foreign exports combined by $1,812,365, while for the corresponding period of 1873 the excess of imports was $51,454,152. Taking the merchandise and specie movements combined, there has been during that period a decrease of $38,880,471 in the imports, and an increase of $15,107,280 in the exports. This year the exports exceeded the total imports by $17,715,870; while last year the imports exceeded the exports by $37,-271,881.

THE exports of specie from New York last week were nearly three millions, and will be as large this week. This will bring the total export for the year up to $96,000,000; and next week will increase it to near $70,000,000. This from the port of New York alone. The total gold production of the United States does not exceed $70,-000,000 per annum, and as the exports of coin from San Francisco and other seaports will probably reach $30,000,000, it is clear that we are shipping abroad much more of the precious metals than we are able to produce. The early resumptionists can therefore study with advantage this conundrum: If we produce seventy millions of bullion annually and export one hundred millions, how long will it take us to secure enough coin to resume specie payments?

DURING the late war, on the invitation of the loyal congregations of Greenville and Johnson City, Tennessee, the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed possession of the church property of the Southern Methodists at those points and has ever since held control of it, without subsequently making any terms with the trustees or with the Southern General Conference. The Supreme Court of Tennessee, however, has just decided that the title of the Southern trustees, under the provisions of the plan of separation adopted in 1844, is valid, and that the possession of the Church North is contrary to law. It appears to us that a decision in favor of the latter Church would have been a misfortune rather than a benefit, since the validity of its own trust deed is of much greater intrinsic importance than a few churches more or less.

THE Democratic cry sent up by the New York *World* and its Democratic coadjutors throughout the country, both before and after the November elections, was for "Hard Money;" yet when a bill came up in the Senate fixing a day for the resumption of specie payments, *every Democratic Senator voted against it!* The bill has now gone to the House; and if it passes there, will be passed against the united opposition of the Democratic members. They do not want the financial question settled. They want to keep it open, to prolong the hard times, to keep the country in a suffering condition, and so, if possible, maintain the hold upon power they have lately secured. A return to good times would be fatal to them, and they know it, hence their one purpose, now, is to prevent, if possible, any legislation that will relieve the country of its troubles. Party, with them, is above country and above everything else.

THE receipts from all sources into the State Treasury for the year ending November 30, 1872, were $6,735,347; for the year ending November 30, 1873, they were $7,077,073, while for the year ending November 30, 1874, they were only $5,871,968. This is a falling off of $1,205,105 from last year, and $868,378 from the year before, and was caused by the repeal last winter of the tax on manufacturing corporations and on gross receipts of railroad companies. It is therefore safe to conclude that under our present tax laws the State revenue cannot exceed six millions annually—a permanent reduction of one million a year. When to this permanent reduction is added the increased appropriation to schools, $500,000, increased legislative expenses, $225,000, and increased judiciary expenses, $125,000—in all $850,000, it will be seen that the State will have little or nothing to spare for charitable and reformatory institutions, and that class of applicants will have to be content with little or nothing.

FROM the official annual statement of the native mining products of Great Britain for last year, which has just been published, it appears that the decrease in the amount of pure copper obtained was 963 tons, or eight per cent. Quite a striking decrease took place in lead, the falling off being no less than 6,220 tons, or upward of ten per cent.; but the most remarkable falling off of all was in spelter, which declined 720 tons, or about fourteen per cent. The total value of the products of these three metals for that period amounted to £1,836,296. Our own production of the same metals during the same period reached an aggregate valuation, according to the English monetary standard, of £2,280,661, or considerably upward of two million dollars more than the amount produced in England. This is a promising fact. Everywhere except with us there is a decreased yield of these metals, while our own progress in their production is steady and constant. The day ought not to be far distant when we shall be exporters of lead and spelter, as well as of copper.

THE TWO EXTREMES.

On the 12th of November a party consisting of some forty persons, men, women and children, left the town of Bunzlan in Silesia for Palestine. Though they went by railway to Hamburg, where they expected to take ship, they were not ordinary tourists, but pilgrims of a very peculiar class. They go to the Holy Land with the purpose and hope of spending their days there. Inquirers were unable to obtain from members of the band any very definite or clear information relative to the motives of their emigration. From few and imperiectly expressed sentences dropped by them it should seem that they believe the world to be near its end, and that the prospect of that catastrophe has somewhat to do with their movement. Two women, one of whom is named HERMINE SCHUL, and professes to be a prophetess, are the instigators of the pilgrimage. The sect to which the pilgrims belong is said to have a good many adherents in the city of Hainau and the surrounding villages. In answer to questions as to how they expect to live in Palestine, the pilgrims said, "The Lord will provide," and the warnings of the local press have had no weight against the influence of the prophetess.

These stirrings of enthusiasm are interesting for more than one reason. Just a hundred years ago, and during some years before and after, movements of the same kind were common among the German peasantry, especially in Southern Germany. Indeed, they were not wholly confined to the peasantry, some citizens of property and intelligence taking part in them. Some of the pious colonies to which religious fervor then gave rise journeyed westward, seeing the star of promise in the setting sun; others, and much the larger number, felt irresistibly drawn toward the East. Some of the emigrant bands reached points far toward the rising sun, where they formed settlements still in existence, while others of them, in fact enough to fulfil their pilgrimage, became involved in much misery, from which their governments interposed to rescue them. Germans, by the way, are not the only people who have been fascinated by the idea of forming a settlement in Palestine. Even American working people, a few years ago, made an attempt of the kind which, we believe, came to naught.

Such movements inspired by faith are also interesting as illustrations of one of the spiritual extremes which mark the times. Ages of scepticism have usually been distinguished by the extraordinary development of credulity. The two opposites go together; the ordinary current of the world's thinking having been disturbed, men run into wild unbelief or wild belief according to constitutional predisposition, education, circumstances, etc. It is only very few who can maintain an attitude of pure negation or prevalent indifference toward the unseen and the Great Hereafter, and when their traditional beliefs on those subjects have been effaced, most men may fall a prey to any delusion which seems likely to fill the void of which they are painfully conscious. We are reminded that, in the opinion of a correspondent, the COMMERCIAL, a few days ago, seemed to concede rather too much in favor of the diffusion of spiritualism at the present time. It may be so. We have never claimed or pretended to have any positive data on the subject; we merely gave the impression received from various indications which, we have no time to specify. In connection with the topic we may mention that Elder EVANS, of the Shaker Society, a man of intelligence and character, in a leading paper of New York city makes not only the Emperor of Russia but the late President LINCOLN and Secretary STANTON all avowed believers in spiritualism. As to LINCOLN and STANTON, Elder EVANS seems to speak from his own personal knowledge, and as to the Czar, he cites the Empress as stating in the presence of many witnesses that the Czar had issued his ukase freeing the serfs at the command of a spirit, through HOME, the famous medium. The latter statement seems not incredible when one remembers how much ALEXANDER the First was influenced by Madame CRUDENER, quite as much a charlatan as HOME. With reference to LINCOLN and STANTON, it is possible that they may have confessed a degree of interest and bewilderment touching the subject, the mental altitude which in feebler intellects is readily succeeded by belief.

THE SCHOOL BILL.

We gave, in our local columns, on Wednesday, an abstract of the provisions of a new School bill which the Legislature will be asked to enact this winter. It proposes an entire revolution in our school system, by transferring the control of it from the people to the courts. It proposes to take away from the people, altogether, the right to elect School Directors, and by conferring the power of appointment on the courts, deprives the people of their inherent right to be consulted in the imposition of the taxes which they have to pay.

We are not prepared, to-day, to go into an extended discussion of this new measure; but, to avoid all future misapprehension, we put ourselves on record, now, as being most decidedly opposed to it. We regard it as radically wrong and indefensible. It is based upon the idea that the people are incapable of self-government. We do not believe in any such doctrine, and shall fight any measure which attempts to deprive the masses of the people of their inborn right to manage their own affairs in their own way. We have heretofore, on various occasions, protested against the tendency to heap power upon the courts, as one fraught with serious danger to the integrity of our Republican form of government, and we protest against this measure because it adds to the already overburdened power of our judicial tribunals.

Our courts were intended to form a distinct co-ordinate branch of government, that of interpreting the laws, of punishing violations of them, and of enforcing justice between man and man. That is their function, and they should be confined to it exclusively. The legislative power belongs to representatives directly chosen by the people, the executive power to executive officers also chosen by them, and the tax-levying power belongs of right to those who are elected especially for that purpose by those who are affected by their action. This is, in our judgment, a perfectly safe division of power. What good reason is there for disturbing it? The courts have enough to do, in all conscience, without being burdened with the endless details of the school system, and as they are now confessedly pure and untainted, the surest way of keeping them so is to confine them to their legitimate functions.

The chief grievance of our revolutionary fathers was taxation without representation, and one of the heavy charges contained in the Declaration of Independence against the parent government was that they were taxed without being consulted. The men of that day claimed the right to elect those who levied taxes upon them, so that they might have in their hands the power of resisting the imposition of unjust or burdensome taxation. They secured that right for themselves, and transmitted it to us; and now it is gravely proposed to give it up and transfer to the courts the power to appoint the men who are to impose taxation upon us for school purposes. For one we say no, most emphatically. Our present school system undoubtedly has some defects; but the way to remove them is to trust the cure of them to the people, and not to *distrust* them, as this proposed measure does. The people are the legitimate source of all political power; and if *they* cannot be trusted, who can?

"NEW YORK'S DANGER."

This is the caption of an article in the New York *Times*, detailing the peril in which that city is placed by the competing policy of the Baltimore and Ohio road in carrying freights at lower rates than the eastern roads are willing to do, and by the effort of Boston to reach our coal fields and the West by a road through Poughkeepsie and a bridge over the Hudson at that point. With regard to the first, the *Times* says:

> The competition waging between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the so-called "Saratoga combination" of trunk lines in freight business, may be a more serious matter for New York than is commonly believed. We already hear of large importing houses where scores of letters are received each day from the interior, requesting the transmission of freight via Baltimore. This does not mean, it should be remembered, merely the shipment from this city of freight to Baltimore, and then to the West. It signifies rather that certain foreign importations will be landed directly in Baltimore from sea-going vessels. It signifies also, if the practice be continued, that every large New York importing-house must have a branch in Baltimore, or an agency, and in time, if the latter city retain her superior advantages, the parent-house will be transferred to Baltimore, and the branch remain here.
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> The other scheme to open up a new route from Boston to the West is also fraught with danger to the metropolis. The *Bulletin* says:
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> The project of a new road from Boston direct to the West via Poughkeepsie (crossing the Hudson at that point) has long been under discussion, but discussion now is to give place to work, if a meeting which was held at the Boston Board of Trade rooms on Tuesday night means all that would appear on the surface. At the meeting, we are informed, not only the leading merchants of Boston, but many prominent persons from New England and New York were present, representing "business men of all classes." Only $500,000 is needed to make the necessary connection with Boston, and a promise was made that it the money was raised now, the road would be in operation by next July. A committee was therefore appointed to take the whole subject into consideration, with instructions to report at an early day.
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> A dispatch from Boston of the 23d says:
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> As a result of the action taken at the Merchants' Exchange, yesterday, in relation to the proposed new trunk line to the Pennsylvania coal fields and Southwest, an informal conference of visiting gentlemen and members of the committee appointed to investigate the matter was held last evening, at which it was stated that energetic steps would be taken toward the consummation of the enterprise. It was stated that three gentlemen had been chartered to-day by telegraph to step forward with the $500,000 called for in case the report of the committee proves favorable after due investigation of the line.

IN THE death of GERRIT SMITH, which event occurred suddenly in New York city, Monday, while he was on a holiday visit to friends, the country suffers the loss of a great and good man. He was born in Utica, New York, (then a mere frontier village,) in 1797, and was consequently in his seventy-eighth year when he died. His father, PETER SMITH, was a business partner of John Jacob Astor, and his shrewd Indian trading enterprises brought him considerable wealth, a large portion of it in the shape of extensive tracts of land, whose gradual appreciation in value laid the foundation of the handsome heritage he bequeathed to his descendants. GERRIT SMITH was a born philanthropist. His intellectual gifts were of the noblest quality; he had that greatness of mind which intuitively perceives great moral truths and great moral laws, and he had, besides, that high courage which enabled him to master and apply them for the best use and progress of humanity. He not only saw and love justice, but he did it and lived it, striving down to the end of his life to join all classes and conditions of mankind more truly and tenderly one to another. Hence he was of structural necessity an abolitionist. LUNDY, LOVEJOY, GARRISON, BIRNEY, HALE and others of the old Liberty Guard, found in him a valued friend and coadjutor, and he was one of the staunchest backers, so far as the rendering of moral sympathy and material aid were concerned, whom old JOHN BROWN ever had. In behalf of every cause which appealed to his conscience he exhibited a princely generosity. His gifts to educational institutions, his contributions for the promotion of the temperance cause, and his donations to non-sectarian religious, benevolent and reformatory societies, must, in the aggregate, have reached an enormous sum. He never lost the enthusiasm of his early interest in the welfare of the black race, and his latest public utterance was a most urgent and eloquent appeal to the Republican party to pass the Civil Rights bill during the present session of Congress. The brave old Apostle of Humanity has gone down with his harness on, tried and true to the last.

BISHOP MCQUAIDE, of Rochester, New York, in a lecture recently delivered, attacked our Common School system bitterly, and was profuse in his predictions of what the Catholics would do with it when they got the power. He admitted that, for the present, they could not control it; but the time was coming when they would have votes enough to get possession of it. He said:

> "Perhaps you do not understand what I mean when I talk about *votes* and *ballot boxes*. Well, I have tried to use plain language, but I will try to be plainer, if possible. I mean this: That we shall go on talking about the universal blessing, enlightening the people as much as we can, *and when the time comes we shall go to the ballot boxes and settle these questions, there in our own favor, as in the past it has been settled against us. We shall go there with our numbers of the people of the land, who mean to live strong, multiply rapidly upon the soil, increasing everywhere—we shall go in our numbers with power, not to do to others as has been done to us, but &c., &c.*
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> * * * "And when our time comes, when we get the majority, we will not going to establish a system that will be all for Catholics, and tell the others if they don't like it they can go about their business; but we will fix a system that will be just and fair, and that will secure for all classes where even the poor unfortunate infidel and Jew, and every class of the community will have an equal and fair deal. (Applause.) We are not going to propose to do it now. We will not be such fools as to do that. We have not got the majority yet. In the meantime we will be talking. They who have to do this work are the men—the laity, whose members and votes count."

This is plain and explicit, and there can be no excuse for misunderstanding it. The programme is distinctly marked out; and recent events in New York would seem to indicate that the laity to whom the Bishop refers, think the time has already come for putting it in operation. The Democratic members of the Legislature of that State have concluded to elect JEREMIAH MCGUIRE to be Speaker of the House, and FRANCIS KERNAN to be United States Senator. Both of these gentlemen are heartily in sympathy with Bishop MCQUAIDE; and the fact that they are able to compass their election to such important places must encourage the Rochester prelate to conclude that the time for capturing the common schools must be near at hand.

THE Buffalo *Commercial* publishes a tabular statement of the receipts of flour, grain and miscellaneous articles at the port of Buffalo during the season just closed, and comparative statements for a series of years. The showing is not so bad as might have been anticipated. The receipts of flour were 1,371,991 barrels, which is more than has been received since 1871. Of wheat the receipts were 28,329,899 bushels, against 29,652,243 bushels in 1873, showing a decline of over a million bushels. Corn shows a still greater falling off, the deliveries of which by lake were 22,392,856 bushels in 1874, against 27,930,294 in the year preceding. The receipts of oats were 4,695,964 bushels, against 5,838,374 in 1873. Barley, rye and peas also show a similar decline. The total receipts of all kinds of grain this year, estimating flour as wheat, were 62,525,153 bushels, against 70,962,520 bushels last year, 62,550,506 in 1872, and 67,529,158 in the year previous. Buffalo, however, does not appear to have suffered more than its competitors. Montreal, its great rival, also lost a corresponding amount of her grain trade, the reason in both instances, we take it, being the unusually active competition for that trade on the part of the railroads. The receipts of grain at Buffalo in the past thirty-nine years aggregate 1,182,636,231 bushels, while, for transporting, handling, insuring and caring for this vast traffic, the *Commercial* says, the people of New York have received nearly $300,000,000.

THE repudiation of local bonds, out West, has become so common that Mr. WASHBURN, of Massachusetts, has introduced a bill into the Senate authorizing the United States courts, in which judgments against the repudiating municipalities have been obtained, to levy a tax upon them for the payment of the judgments. The usual plan has been, after obtaining judgment, to issue a mandamus to the local authorities commanding them to levy a tax to satisfy the judgment; but the local officers have learned, in most cases, sharpness enough to resign before the mandamus can be served, and the holder of the judgment is thus left without remedy. Mr. WASHBURN'S bill is intended to cure this defect in the legal machinery.

The West has, until lately, been the sole participant in this business, but we learn from the New York *Journal of Commerce* that the infamy is creeping eastward. Since the failure of the Midland road in that State, several towns along the western division of its line have declined to pay the coupons of bonds issued by them. The bonds were originally put out with the usual legal formalities, with the consent and approval of the people, who at that time expected the greatest beneficial results to follow; but the road having failed completely, the only result obtained from it is a debt the towns are unwilling to pay.

CROP ESTIMATES are almost always tinged and affected by the wishes of those who make them. The cotton crop has always been under-estimated; the dealers in that article being constantly anxious to run prices up. The crop of 1874 was estimated at 3,850,000 bales, and will exceed that figure at least 400,000 bales. At current prices this should yield about $250,000,000, and we note in one of the Southern papers an admission that the crop has been gathered at a cost *fifteen millions of dollars less* than the same kind of crop was gathered in the times of slavery. The South, therefore, is producing as much as she did before the war, and at less cost, and should be ashamed of putting up the cry of poverty which is heard in every portion of her borders. She has lost her slave property, but she is able to do better without it than with it. So that what she bowails as a loss is really a gain. With her sugar and rice crops, in addition to the cotton crop, and with the increased attention paid to cultivating cereals for her own consumption, the South is, in reality, more prosperous to-day than she has been at any period of her previous history.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

O, sweet is longing, sweet is trust!
The royal wish speeds brave endeavor.
Covet the best gifts! for we must!
By this path we ascend forever.

They buy cattle in Oregon for two and a half cents a pound.

Philadelphia is to be brought within an hour and a half of New York by rail.

The financial pressure is loosening. Even the days are not so "short" as they were.

Isn't it singular that men who will not believe in God end by believing in ghosts?

Green peas grown in the open air have made their appearance in the Savannah market.

There has been a falling off in the export trade of Boston, this year as compared with last, of $3,392,044.

All the European Powers have accepted an invitation to the forthcoming International Code conference.

Canada's tobacco bill for 1873, including smoking and chewing tobacco, cigars, pipes, and snuff, foots up $8,421,085.

Grinding their way to prosperity. The milling capacity of Minnesota is estimated at about a thousand run of stone.

Can the nation stand it? Germany's imports for the last twelve months exceed the exports by 500,000,000 thalers.

Another convention of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Illinois will be held in Chicago, February 3, to elect a bishop.

Shooting burglars "on the spot" is declared by as competent legal authority as Charles O'Conor to be just and beneficial.

A correspondent wants to know what kind of paper is best to write on for a newspaper. Foolscap, for folks like himself.

Oysters are now so scarce in England that a host's hospitality is measured by the number he allows the cook to serve in the soup.

It was a Merry Christmas; now let us take fresh heart of courage from it, and look confidently forward to a happy New Year.

Foreigners who have of late been traveling in China speak highly of increased civility and growing confidence on the part of the people.

San Francisco has been overtaken by another gold and silver mining craze, and the speculative feeling is running higher and wider than for many years.

In New York bookkeepers and clerks are almost as plentiful as the flags of the sidewalk. They can be hired by the hundred for a mere pittance of pay.

All the recognized foreign governments of the world have signified their intention to be represented at the Philadelphia Centennial. It will be a grand success.

New Zealand having decided to send a Commission to the Centennial, the witty New York *Advertiser* trusts that the work will go on with a New zeal-and energy.

The Illinois Legislature has been evading the clause in the reformed constitution which forbids special legislation, and some of the papers are making a row about it.

A growing trade. The total imports from China and Japan this year amount to $8,187,483, against $9,385,573 last year. The exports were $2,118,184, against $1,930,122 last year.

The grangers congratulate themselves on the organization of 409 new subordinate granges during the present month, making the total number 621,981. The number of members is 1,648,571.

At Monte Vista, in Los Angeles county, Cal., the apples trees are fragrant with their white buds and blooms. So says the last paper received from that delightful semi-tropical region.

An attempt at burglary at St. Johnsville, New York, on Christmas eve, resulted in the killing of one of the thieves. A few more examples of this kind, and burglary will become rare.

There is a sugar refinery in St. Louis which, during this year, has consumed sixty-three millions of pounds of raw sugar. It also sold refined sugar during the same time to the value of $5,900,000.

It is now believed that the simoons which sometimes occur in the western half of the Mississippi Valley have their origin in South America, and are caused by the heated air of the great sandy plains.

Tweedledum and tweedledee. The Michigan spiritualists have rescinded their former resolution indorsing free love, leaving the question to "the dictates of each man and woman's own conscience."

Very singular rumbling or detonating sounds have been repeatedly heard of late in the vicinity of Stone Mountain, Georgia. We ourselves noticed a similar phenomenon in that region some ten or eleven years ago.

The original discovery of Sharon's great mine was made in 1859, when the region was known as "Washoe." Since then, nearly two hundred millions' worth of silver and gold have been drawn from the lode.

Maine's shipbuilding record for the year now closing is very encouraging. Two hundred and ninety-one vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 132,300 tons, have been built, while, last year, the number was only 235, with a corresponding tonnage.

Cost of Living.

A comparison of the prices of the staples of the country in wholesale markets in November, 1859, 1864 and 1874, show that prices are nearly as low, and in some cases lower than before the war, if they are reduced to the gold standard. Wheat is selling at about the same prices in currency as it sold for in gold in 1859. Corn is selling for half what it did in 1864 (the year when gold touched 285), and about the same price, gold values, as it did in 1859. Cotton is worth a little more than in 1859, but is about one-ninth the price reached in 1864. Provisions, sugar and coffee show a heavy decline, but the present currency quotations are above the gold prices of 1859. Dry goods show a great decline since 1864, prints being below the prices of 1859. Beef was rather higher, in the local market, before the war than to-day. Sales were reported in the *Ledger* in November, 1859, for seven to nine cents per pound. The corresponding cattle market report published this year quotes sales at from four to seven and a half cents. But before these articles reach the consumers items of cost are added to them, which have not been reduced in proportion to the reduction in prime cost. The tax rate of 1859 on real estate was one dollar and seventy-five cents on a very low valuation of property; to-day it is two dollars and twenty cents on a cash valuation. A house which was worth $1,500 in 1859 could not be bought for less than $4,000 now, and rents are from two to three times as high now as before the war. While it is true, therefore, that what are often called "necessaries of life" have been reduced in price at wholesale to nearly the prices which ruled in 1859, it is not to be inferred that the cost of living to working men has been correspondingly reduced. Provisions consume about one-third to one-half workingmen's incomes. The other half is expended for rent, clothing, fuel, lights and other expenditures of all kinds, and in many of these there has been no reduction from ante-war prices. But with a reduction in the prime cost of provisions, there will, undoubtedly, come in time a reduction in the value of the things for which corn, beef, wheat, &c., are exchanged; in other words, a reduction in all the many things which together make up the real cost of living.

$8,598,720 a Year.

An important suit is now pending concerning the Woodbury patent for "pressure bars" on planing and moulding machines. The application for this patent was rejected in 1848, 1854, 1870, and once, I think, by the Commissioner who granted it in 1873, but was put through, under a special act, by the late Commissioner, in 1873, and under it claimed a royalty of one hundred dollars a year on all planing and moulding machines in the United States. As there are 85,742 of these, the owners of the patent expect to realize the snug little sum of $8,598,720 a year income. The planing mill owners have had a meeting to provide for their interests. Celebrated lawyers are engaged at heavy fees, and the fight for spoils will make fat business for the courts. This a clear case of which Col. Sellers would say, "It has money in it—millions, sir; yes, millions!"

PERSONAL.

Tischendorf, the well known collector and editor of Biblical manuscripts, died lately at Leipsic.

Thomas Cottrell Clark died on Tuesday in Camden, N. J. He was first editor of the New York *Saturday Evening Post*.

The French government do not recognize Pio Nono as a King, and are suppressing the coin with his image and superscription.

The teacher of a school out in Illinois insists on the children pronouncing Hugh Miller Hug Miller, and the girls' mothers think it is time for him to quit.

Mr. Samuel R. Reed, who has for some years been editor and part proprietor of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, is about to remove to Toledo, to edit the *Commercial* of that city.

The man who introduced the use of the term "carpet-bagger" for northern adventurers at the South has just died. His name was William Parr, and he lived at Suffolk, Va.

Robert Dale Owen writes that he has information from England that Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, the mediums, were guilty of forgery in that country. They "materialized" checks for £8 up to £80.

It is said that the wife of Frank D. Moulton, "the mutual friend," has left him because she refuses to become a witness in his behalf to substantiate his statement of Mr. Beecher's confession, which she knows nothing about.

A wealthy Russian of good family has just been married to a Cincinnati girl with whom he fell in love before he saw her. He chanced to see her photograph in Russia, and became so enamored of her that he came 7,500 miles to make her his wife.

The American children's gift to the beloved story-teller, Hans Christian Andersen, was a Christmas gift, for over $200 of it went over the water in the shape of a telegraphic draft, Wednesday evening, and the rest of it is going over in the shape of a handsome edition of "Picturesque America."

The Chicago *Tribune* protests against General Sheridan's removal to New Orleans. It says: "There really is a great field of usefulness here for General Sheridan, and he is improving it pretty well. The field is the field of gallantry, and the service is heroic devotion to the lofty ethics of the ball room."

The greatest Christmas present ever made was that which General Sherman gave to the country just ten years ago when he telegraphed to President Lincoln: "I beg to present to you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about twenty-five thousand bales of cotton.

Here is the beginning of a feud, which may require endless New England dinners to compose. Vice President Allen, of the Rhode Island Historical Society, at a late meeting declared his opinion that "the type of character shown by the Pilgrims of the Plymouth colony was far nobler and broader than that exhibited by the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay." We guess he was pretty nearly right, though.

Mr. Neagle, quondam Controller General of South Carolina, used to get favors out of Governor Moses by the simple but effectual process of threatening to shoot him if he said no. He tried it on, the other day, with Governor Chamberlain, and was promptly jailed for his pains. Mr. Neagle is at present under a $10,000 bond to keep the peace, and wishes that he were dead.

Col. Samuel J. Anderson, a noted Southern politician of the old school, blew his brains out on Sunday last in Atlanta, Ga. He had previously made his will, and among other bequests, was the following: "To Robert Toombs—my pistol, with my recommendation that he rid the world of his presence by imitating my example." Now let us see whether Toombs will continue in that stubborn disregard of good advice which has characterized him through life.

The spiritualists are having bad luck on both sides of the Atlantic. The Katie King phenomenon was first introduced at the seances of Miss Florence Cook, in London. Until now the spiritualists have stood by her as an honest medium; but now her credit is ruined too. A wicked unbeliever named Hipp caught and held Miss Cook by the hand, in the course of a manifestation, which, it was expected, would come to her through spiritual agencies alone. He has exposed the fraud in the papers—caught her on the hip, in fact.

A good story in connection with the Papal dogmas is just revived. When Bishop Burnet was at Rome he met Christina, Queen of Sweden, who, though born a Protestant, had become a Roman Catholic, and asked her what she thought of the Pope's infallibility. She replied that she did not know much about his infallibility, but that she had a firm faith in the Pope's being under supernatural guidance, because she had herself known four of them, and they were all such consummate fools that if they had not had Divine assistance, she did not see how they could ever have got on at all.

POLITICAL.

State.

A communication in the New York *Tribune*, advocating the claims of Jerry Black to the United States Senatorship, is significantly signed F. E. E. It is not impossible that in those words Mr. Beecher's initials may be found the cause which moved the letter writer to spread himself.

The effort of the New York *Times* to establish that Judge Jeremiah S. Black, of this State, was so noble a patriot during the war, that the records of such men as Edwin M. Stanton and John A. Dix are not to be compared with it, is something very astounding. Is the *Times* ignorant of the fact that Judge Black came nearer being an active rebel than any Democrat in Pennsylvania, except perhaps Charles R. Buckalew? If it does not, it might learn the fact from almost any boy in the Keystone State.—*Scranton Republican.*

The New York *Tribune* has discovered another candidate for United States Senator from Pennsylvania. It is the Hon. William A. Galbraith, of Erie, whose influence and fame in the State are not as wide-spread as that of the newspaper which advocates his claims. The *Tribune* says of Mr. Galbraith: "He is an honest man, of good education, of blameless character, and has sufficient ability to represent his State with credit, and reputation enough to make him careful of it."—*Press.*

General.

Senators Schurz and Fenton say they voted for the Senate Finance bill in order to strengthen the Republican party. So these gentlemen are back in the ranks.

The Norwich, Connecticut, *Bulletin* gives currency to the rumor that an effort is being made to secure for Carl Schurz a position in the Cabinet, and says: "There are not very many Republicans who would object to this step, but it would hurt the other side dreadfully."

Before the *Courier-Journal* again declares confidence in the integrity of purpose of its Democratic friends, it might as well explain how it happens that Kentucky is getting to be so lawless a State. Is Democracy anywhere much more than organized hostility to law?—*St. Louis Democrat.*

Mr. Watterson of the *Courier-Journal* is in Washington, and writes home a rueful letter about the intellectual prospects of the Democracy in Congress. With all the Democratic victories last fall, Henri cannot see that the party has gained as much mental strength as it will lose by the retirement of Beck and Schurz, and a few others. The Louisville editor should not be discouraged. The *Cleveland Herald* thinks that "the Democratic party has a greater faculty for getting along without brains than any other organization in history."

The Missour *Democrat*, in a long editorial article summing up the condition of affairs and the prospect politically in the South, says: "Having daily communication with the people of the South, and feeling their spirit in this very State, *we tell the people of the North that equality of civil and political rights, and even freedom of labor will go by the board*, unless some other measures are taken to keep up other government than any that Southern Democrats will maintain. We believe, friends of the South, that this is the solemn truth on which long before the Presidential election will force itself upon your reluctant recognition. Vicksburg is only the vanguard of an army of riots"

Among the resolutions adopted at the recent caucus of Southern Republican members of Congress is one to the effect that in large portions of the South neither life, liberty nor property is protected; the peaceable assembling of the people together is not allowed to Republicans, every right or privilege guaranteed by the Constitution and dear to American freemen is held by Southern Republicans at sufferance; that assassination, murder, whippings, threats of violence, persecution, proscription, ostracism, calumny and detraction are the means resorted to to strike down Republicans, and to eradicate fidelity to the Federal Constitution; that the condition of Republicans in the South is unendurable, and they must have protection and speedy relief, or be overwhelmed by violence and wrong.

AMERICAN shipping is slowly but steadily recovering from the depression of its interests, caused, or at least aggravated by the rebellion. The total tonnage of United States vessels is 4,800,632 tons, being an increase over 1873 of 104,626 tons. The canal boat tonnage, which amounts to 133,065 tons, is not included in these statistics. The tonnage of vessels built during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, was 432,725, which exceeded that of the preceding year by over 70,000, and is more than the tonnage built during any year since 1855. In the nine months ending November 10, official numbers were awarded by the Bureau of Statistics to nearly 700 vessels, the carrying capacity of which amounted to 169,654 tons. Of these 213 (nearly one-third) were new seagoing vessels, varying from 100 to 5,000 tons burden, and having an aggregate tonnage of more than 120,000 tons.

THE WOOL INTEREST.

Protest of the National Wool Growers' Association Against the Ratification of the Reciprocity Treaty with Canada.

The National Wool Growers' Association, through its Executive Committee, *protests* against the ratification of any treaty between our country and the Dominion of Canada, which shall in any way abridge the powers of Congress to regulate and alter our tariff laws as may from time to time appear to be conducive to our national interests.

The Father of our Country, in his farewell address to his fellow citizens in 1796, said:—

"The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible." * * * "Harmony, and a liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand, neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences." * * * "Establishing rules of intercourse with powers so disposed, the best that *present* circumstances will permit, but *temporary*, and liable to be, from time to time, abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another." * * * "There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation."

This is the last advice given by General Washington to his country, and upon the important place in the well known State paper with which he closed his official career.

The treaty now before the Senate of the United States, is a measure entirely in conflict with this advice, and by its terms binds the country for twenty-one years, and three years after that period has expired, which is provided for notice—making in all twenty-four years—in bonds that cannot be broken, except by war between the parties.

No treaty can be drawn, even by the wisest statesman that ever lived, that would be safe for such a growing, changing and progressive nation as ours, to accept as unchangeable for twenty-four years. There is no safety in thus binding the men, who, coming after us, will be charged with the governing, and supplying the means of defraying the expenses of such a nation in peace, and in the wars that all nations are sometimes forced to maintain.

But of this treaty it cannot be said that it was wise in its provisions for even the present time. Its ratification and enforcement would be greatly injurious to many branches of our national industries, and it would certainly materially lessen our production of wool.

Canada wool, is, by the terms of the treaty, to be admitted to our country free of all duty. Wool grown in the whole world would, under such a treaty, be smuggled through Canada in immense quantities. The wools produced in England and Ireland are so like those produced in Canada that even an expert could not detect them.

The treaty provides that woolen rags shall come to us, free of duty, thus furnishing unlimited material for shoddy goods. Satinets of wool and cotton, and tweeds of wool solely, are free.

Tweeds, by Canada custom, embrace under one general name fancy cassimeres and a variety of styles of woolen goods. Under this general term. English cassimeres would be smuggled in boundless quantities. Felting to cover boilers is also free. Under these various divisions of material, and, manufactured woolen goods, not only the growing of wool, but the manufacturing, would so suffer as to virtually destroy both, as great branches of national industry.

The effect of the treaty would be to establish free trade in wool and woolen goods, not only between the Dominion of Canada, but between England and the United States.

Using round numbers, the General Government does now collect every year about ($300,000,000) three hundred millions of dollars—one-third from internal taxes and two-thirds from tariff duties. This immense sum of money has to be raised from our industry, and the people of Canada now contribute about sixty millions of dollars in gold, paid for duties. The Treaty would surrender this sum and add it to our overweighted industry, and thus make it the thoroughfare for smuggling for all of the world. Every branch of industry in Canada would be stimulated at our expense, which, it was expected, would be due to the fact that labor there is not taxed as it is here, to pay a great national debt, would give that country such advantages in producing and manufacturing that it could undersell us in our own markets.

To quote from the late address of Mr. Speaker Blaine to his constituents: The Queen of Sweden, who, though born a Prot